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## £ falls as oil rumours unsettle market

By Peter Rodgers  
and John Hooper

The pound plunged yesterday on foreign exchange markets because of a series of conflicting reports about an expected Opec oil price cut. It caused a sharp rise in interest rates in the City's money markets, where talk of a further rise in bank base lending rates was revived.

Shares crashed £2.2 billion and lost all Tuesday's big gain, closing 20.8 down at 1003.7 on the FT 30 index.

Sterling's plunge took it to the lowest ever closing level on its Bank of England index against a basket of currencies, and it also fell 1.18 cents against the dollar to \$1.125, after touching \$1.1295.

The tumble began after a report from Saudi Arabia that

Opec officials, who held a two-day meeting in Riyadh earlier this week, had recommended a cut of its key "marker" crude by a swingeing 2.50%.

Opec strongly denied the report and a senior official of the Saudi Arabian oil ministry said it was "not right". But it is clear nevertheless that a cut of up to 2.5% is very much on the cards whether the cartel's oil ministers meet in Geneva next week.

Cold weather in Western Europe and North America has helped to boost prices on the spot market. But they are still well below those charged by Opec governments for contract deliveries and the organisation must agree a market price or risk being destroyed by the traders who run it.

The pound's fall came only a day after a report of a 5% rise in the price of oil on the London market, which had been expected to be a 2% rise.

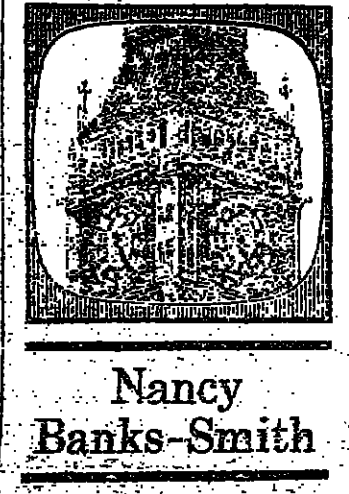
The Bank of England and the Treasury are expected to be in a difficult position if the pound continues to fall.

Turn to back page, col. 5



PULL HOUSE: The scene in the Lords yesterday during the first televised debate which was welcomed with general enthusiasm by the participants

## Much ancient fizz drives out the zizz



Nancy Banks-Smith

THE uproar in the public gallery—nicely timed when they were standing to listen to one of the Earl of Stockton's celebrated speeches—showed that the Lords were not so much ancient as they were lively.

The Lords themselves seemed quite pleased and surprised (they woke up). There had not been so much excitement in the chamber since "one of the horses fell down," almost killing Lord Sharncliffe. Age not insubriety, I imagine, was the cause of the bees' fall.

Personally I was astonished at the Lords' vigour, particularly when debating euthanasia. They kept up

twinkling like tiddlywinks, one after the other, demanding like Lord Boothby: "The right to choose whether to stick it out or call it a day." Few, one felt, would choose the second.

Yes Minister described going to the Lords as moving from the animals to the vegetables. I assume Sir Humphrey was speaking of beans. Most lords were full of them.

Many are recognised with surprise from an earlier incarnation. The trouble with meeting a lord, said A.P. Herbert, is that you find it is that fool Snuggins you have been avoiding in the House for years. The acid view of a Commons man.

One immediate effect of

the television is that Lord Gowrie spoke of "the House of Commons, as we shall now learn to call it." Lord Gowrie had the dizzying experience of appearing for a short time on three channels at once, leaning negligently on the despatch box like the blessed danozel leaning out from the gold bar of heaven in a bow tie, and recommending British goods in the strongest terms.

The Lords do not interrupt a speaker even if his shirt is on fire, otherwise someone might have broken into Lord Gowrie's flow with the news that all the television equipment was Japanese.

It is possible that Lords

Turn to back page, col. 5

General Rogers — to recommend modernisation of the British ones, is being reviewed by the Supreme Commander, General Rogers, for a defence ministers meeting in March. General Rogers will recommend reduced numbers provided the weaponry is modernised.

This puts on the pressure for an early political decision. One senior military source close to the problem said privately that the weapons should have been replaced years ago.

But the Defence Secretary, Mr. Michael Heseltine, has enough nuclear embarrassments with American cruise missiles at Greenham Common and the rising cost of Trident, and military opinion is divided over what form modernisation should take.

Nato's evolving tactical doctrine points to less reliance on battlefield nuclear weapons, which might precipitate an uncontrollable holocaust, while making sure that those that remain are more effective — including the purely American option of the so-called "neutron bomb" artillery shell not yet politically cleared for deployment in Europe.

## Loop line proposed

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

The Government is considering legislation to get around the High Court's ruling earlier this month that the Transport Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Robinson, had improperly taken from the GLC the funds of London Regional Transport.

It is understood that Mr. Robinson has been advised that he should not appeal against Mr. Justice McNeill's ruling in which he was condemned for "unlawful, irrational and procedurally improper" behaviour.

Not only would he risk further censure from the bench, but he might also complicate the Department of the Environment's rate-capping timetable by creating so much doubt about the GLC's financial position that it could legitimately refuse to fix its rate.

Although no final Cabinet

Turn to back page, col. 6

## Peace formula on pit closures goes to miners' executive

By Keith Harper  
and John Ardliff

A new form of words covering the closure of uneconomic pits which could provide the basis for a solution to the coal dispute will be presented for approval to the national executive of the National Union of Mineworkers in Sheffield today.

The formula was worked out in private talks on Monday between Mr. Peter Heathfield, the NUM's general secretary, and Mr. Ned Smith, the National Coal Board's head of industrial relations.

It was considered last night by both union and board as a possible way to settle the strike which began last March in spite of strenuous Government efforts to undermine Monday's meeting.

The formula suggests that the cost of production should be taken into account whenever there is a discussion about the closure of uneconomic pits.

There was little difference between both sides over the review of the board's statement on March 6 1984 which proposed to close 20 pits at a cost of 20,000 jobs. The board is expected to withdraw its plan to close five named pits, Herrington, Snowdown, Polmaise, Cortonwood and Buckfield Wood.

Both sides last night were extremely wary but indicated that there might be "some scope for reopening negotiations."

While suspicious of Mr. Arthur Scargill's intentions, Mr. Ned Smith, the NCB chairman, is satisfied that the NUM executive is now so wholeheartedly behind moves for a settlement that the president will not be able to apply the brakes.

emerge at Monday's meeting and the reaction of NUM leaders "could just conceivably be a basis for talks and then an honourable settlement if everybody works at it — and it will need a good deal of hard work."

Although many general council members are convinced that only the Government is standing in the way of negotiations the TUC was careful not to appear antagonistic by making too much of this.

Asked whether the Government was trying to find common ground between both sides, Mr. Willis replied: "I don't think all their statements have been helpful but I'm continuing to urge all parties that have influence in this matter to assist negotiation."

The general council also adopted a statement making it clear that any breakaway mining union would not be eligible for affiliation to the TUC.

There is concern in the east Midlands, however, that if the Nottinghamshire miners are no longer associated with the TUC and the Labour movement it could prove disastrous for the regional Labour Party, which depends heavily on aid from Nottinghamshire miners.

The board said 320 miners abandoned the strike yesterday, bringing the total this week to 2,900 compared with 2,870 in the whole of last week.

Members of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shooters crossed NUM pickets at the first time. They were Kiveton Park, where the board said production could restart within a fortnight, and at Brookhouse.

amazed to see the headlines in the late editions of the Standard, the London evening newspaper, indicating that talks had been held.

Mr. Heathfield was furious with Mr. Smith who protested saying that he had no part in the leaks.

If today's NUM executive results in a positive response, it is likely to lead to a couple of private sessions between Mr. Heathfield and Mr. Smith, who was due to retire next week, but who may now stay on to carry the talks through to their conclusion.

The TUC general council yesterday urged the Government and board to "respond positively" to the NUM's willingness to reopen negotiations.

Mr. Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said the "positive" points "which

**GUARDIAN  
MARPLAN  
INDEX**

By Martin Linton

The National Coal Board has almost twice as much public support in the pit strike as the National Union of Mineworkers, according to the Guardian-Marplan Index for January.

The figures are 48 per cent for the Board and 25 per cent for the NUM, with the remainder having no opinion. Within these overall figures the Labour Party's supporters are still firmly on the side of the miners by 54 per cent to 20 per cent and the coal strike makes them more likely to vote Labour.

Conservative and Alliance supporters are on the side of the Coal Board and they say the coal strike makes them overwhelmingly less likely to vote Labour.

The sample was asked: "Which of the two opposite cases in the dispute do you support? The case being put by the NUM or the case being put by the Coal Board?"

Replies were:

	Total	Con	Lab	All
NUM	25	5	64	23
NCB	48	75	20	48
No opinion	27	20	26	29

This polarisation of opinion

Turn to back page, col. 6

## Support for NCB twice that for strikers

can be seen in a month when there has been little movement in the overall level of support for the main parties. Labour has improved its position by 1 per cent, but remains 8 per cent behind the Conservatives. The Alliance has dropped 1 per cent and is now 8 per cent behind Labour.

	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sept
Cons	48	41	40	39	38
Lab	25	24	23	22	21
All	27	26	25	24	23
Other	0	9	9	15	15

Both Mrs Thatcher and Mr. Kinnoch have dropped 1 per cent in answer to the question: "Who would be the best Prime Minister?" But David Steel and David Owen remain at the same level as last month and the same level as one another.

Marplan said the sample which side they supported in the coal dispute and whether it had made them more or less likely to vote for the Labour Party and the answer to this

## Heseltine faces furious debate over replacing 'old' weapons

# Nato to force nuclear choice

By David Fairhall,  
Defence Correspondent

Amid high security and high potential embarrassment, the Ministry of Defence is being forced to confront a nuclear issue every bit as sensitive as Trident—the replacement of our so-called tactical or battle-field nuclear weapons.

The weapons—possibly hundreds of RAF bombs and Royal Navy depth charges—are being replaced by a new generation of "intelligent" homing torpedoes, why does it need the clumsy destructive power of a nuclear depth charge?

Should the Rhine Army press for access to the neutron bomb in place of its present American nuclear artillery shells if Nato eventually agrees to European deployment of this politically sensitive weapon?

Translated into a British context, this poses controversial choices for each of the three services:

- If the RAF needs a new weapon for its Tornado strike aircraft, should it not take the form of a cruise missile—which would then offer an alternative if Trident were cancelled?
- Now the Royal Navy is acquiring a new generation of "intelligent" homing torpedoes, why does it need the clumsy destructive power of a nuclear depth charge?
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### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Bag scans urged

ELECTRONIC scanning of diplomatic bags has been recommended in a Commons report criticising the Foreign Office in the light of the Libyan embassy shooting, page 3. Leader comment, page 10.

## Vetting questions

STAFF at GCHQ facing positive vetting interviews are being asked overly political questions, page 4.

### Hotel weaknesses

FOUR main security weaknesses are revealed in a report on the Grand Hotel bombing in Brighton, page 2.

### Nuclear evidence

A NUCLEAR physicist is to give medical evidence at an inquest into the death of a British nuclear test veteran, page 2.

### Jenkin delay

MR Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, is expected to decide today to postpone laying parliamentary orders needed to enforce rate-capping controls, page 2.

### Last in space

ATTEMPTS by Britain to revitalise its space effort could fail to get off the launch pad, Futures, page 11.

### Chinese survey

A SURVEY of Britain's 100,000-strong Chinese community reveals anxiety behind the traditional discreet facade, page 4.

### The weather

CLOUDY, with wintry showers. Details, back page.

### The Guardian

Once again, and with much regret, we apologise to readers who failed to get the Guardian yesterday. This further loss of copies was caused by a continuing disagreement involving NGA chapels in our London composing room. We are very sorry.

	THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE	100 g
Austria	25 p	100 g
Belgium	25 p	100 g
France	25 p	100 g
Germany	25 p	100 g
Italy	25 p	100 g
Spain	25 p	100 g
Switzerland	25 p	100 g

## Chile 'in Falklands deal'

By Seumas Milne

Britain made a deal with Chile's military ruler General Pinochet during the Falklands war to supply military aircraft and to oppose United Nations investigations of human rights abuses in Chile in exchange for the use of bases and intelligence, this week's New Statesman claims.

The magazine alleges that the agreement, set out in a series of secret telegrams between the British ambassador in Santiago and the Foreign Office in Whitehall, has been confirmed by senior civil servants and a Minister in the Thatcher government of the time.

The agreement is said to have included:

- The use of Punta Arenas, an air base in southern Chile,









POINTS OF DISORDER: Terry Hudson (left), a working miners' leader, confronting John Richardson, who is on strike, at an abortive meeting yesterday to explain plans for a split from the National Union of Mineworkers in Yorkshire. Pictures by Don McPhee

## Working miners drift back from schism

By Malcolm Piters  
STRIKING and working miners, a Tory MP and bewildered members of the media spent an hour yesterday watching the collapse of an attempt to form a breakaway movement from the NUM in Yorkshire.

The working miners had called a press conference to explain their plans but when only a handful of men arrived at a working men's club in Normanton, near Wakefield, they decided to put the matter in abeyance. One organiser said that men who had arrived had decided to "scarper" after seeing the press.

Mr Hudson, who is well liked by Yorkshire miners, said his only concern was to look after the needs of men returning to work. Two other

meeting turned up to see what support there was and to join the questioning. After an hour it was clear that support was not forthcoming. The strikers, at first slightly apprehensive and a little angry, realised that they had an opportunity to state their case to working miners.

At one point one of the men who had helped organise the conference, Mr Terry Hudson, chairman of north Yorkshire working miners' consultative committee, rose to walk out saying that he wanted no part of any breakaway from the National Union of Mineworkers.

Mr Hudson, who is well liked by Yorkshire miners, said his only concern was to look after the needs of men returning to work. Two other



Howard Wadsworth — strikers back soon

men, Mr Terry Moore, an underground diesel driver at Allerton Bywater colliery, who was the second man to return to work in Yorkshire, and Mr Charlie Pointon, a

surface welder at the same pit, made it clear that they wanted a breakaway. Mr Pointon said that the meeting had been called to form a committee in case Nottinghamshire men were expelled from the union. Many striking miners tried to point out that the NUM did not want to expel Nottinghamshire, which had sought rule changes.

Mr Howard Wadsworth, the NUM branch delegate at Kellingley colliery, a forceful, well-respected miner, told Mr Moore and Mr Pointon that they did not know what they were talking about and that they were being used. Without the NUM they would have no future.

Mr Wadsworth, who believed all miners would be back at work soon, said that

the NUM and the National Coal Board both wanted a settlement but "Mrs Thatcher wants to grind Scargill and the NUM into the dust".

Mr Spencer Batiste, Conservative MP for Elmet and Yorkshire, president of the Conservative trade union movement, looked on benignly. He had said he was at the press conference to look into intimidation against working miners, not to persuade men to end the strike.

One striking miner, Mr John Richardson, said that 37 men had gone back to work at his pit, the Prince of Wales, near Pontefract. "Those lads have given everything, everything. But they have had to go back. They are not scabs to me because they have given all and more."

## FO rebuked for laxity before Libyan offer

### Diplomatic bags should be scanned, say MPs

By Patrick Kealey, Diplomatic Correspondent

Diplomatic bags should be electronically scanned if there are fears that they could be a security risk, the Commons foreign affairs committee said yesterday.

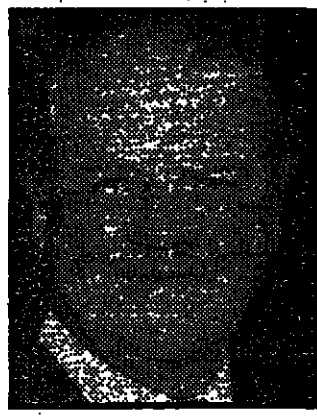
The select committee made its recommendation in a report of an inquiry which followed the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher outside the Libyan People's Bureau in London last spring, and the later attempt to smuggle a Nigerian exile, Dr Umaru Dikko, out of England in a crate marked as diplomatic baggage.

The committee suggested proposals aimed at reducing the abuse of diplomatic immunities and privileges, and rebuked the Foreign Office for its handling of the Libyan mission in London in the three months before WPC Fletcher died.

In its 94-page report, the committee said that from the time the Revolutionary Committee of Libyan Students took over the embassy building in St James's Square in September 1979 to the day last April on which the policeman was killed by bullets fired from a window, Whitehall turned a blind eye to irregular goings-on at the embassy.

The committee noted that other European governments were confronted with Colonel Gaddafi's strategy of turning embassies into People's Bureaux and refusing to designate anyone as ambassador or charge d'affaires.

Britain and her EEC partners decided to try to live with the new, deliberately obscure system. They resolved to direct their main dealings to the Libyan foreign ministry in Tripoli, renamed the Foreign Liaison Bureau, and to by-pass



Sir Anthony Kershaw: 'obliging flexibility'

the Libyan embassies in their own capitals.

The committee, chaired by a former Tory minister, Sir Anthony Kershaw, MP, observed that this obliging flexibility by the European countries was misconstrued by the Libyans, and led to further rule-bending and bomb outrages.

The report's main recommendation said: "The test will be whether a firmer policy is adopted throughout the whole range of diplomatic abuses. The committee considers that such a firmer policy is the only effective weapon that the British Government possesses."

Referring to the arguments presented in evidence by lawyers, Foreign Office officials, and expert witnesses about the vulnerable position of British Embassy staff in Libya, the report rejected the idea of implicit blackmail, and said:

"Britain will have to accept the often unjustified retaliatory action that will follow such a firmer policy—as in the

cases of Nigeria and Libya—as a price worth paying."

The committee sets out nine other key points:

● The scanning of diplomatic bags by electronic means is lawful, and should be used judiciously.

● Traffic in such bags should be monitored, listed, and graphed, at least in the case of hostile embassies.

● Incoming diplomats should be vetted by means of individual biographies. None is required at present, except for heads of missions.

● Controls on the numbers of staff at missions should be imposed as soon as they are suspected of breaking the rules of diplomatic behaviour.

● There should be an immediate crackdown on irregularities, rather than giving an embassy the benefit of the doubt.

● The need to save human life overrides the text of the Vienna Convention of 1961, and all embassies should be so notified.

● Diplomatic missions cannot be insulated from the peaceful demonstrations that are normal in Britain, though the Libyans demanded this the night before the St James's Square shooting.

● Liaison between the FO and Home Office in such matters has proved inadequate, and should be urgently revised.

● The Vienna Convention, signed by 143 nations, is virtually unamendable, despite ministerial hints to the Commons last year that Britain would seek changes. Amendments would not be in Britain's national interest.

The Abuse of Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges. Stationery Office, £8.40.

Leader comment, page 10

## Protests at woman's inquiry 'ordeal'

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

Neighbours and friends of Miss Joanne Hayes, the woman at the centre of the controversial Irish inquiry into police conduct, yesterday picketed the tribunal amid a chorus of protests over her treatment by lawyers.

Some 40 people paraded outside Tralee town hall in County Kerry, where the inquiry is being held.

Miss Hayes, aged 25, was accused last year of the murder of a newborn baby which forensic evidence suggests she could not have committed. The charge was later dropped.

Miss Hayes broke down under the relentless questioning about her affair with a married man and the birth of her child, which she delivered by herself while standing in a field near her home last April. The baby died and she hid its body in a pool of water on the family farm.

Two weeks later, police investigating the discovery of a stabbed infant on a beach 40 miles away interrogated her and her family. She, her two brothers, sister and aunt signed statements confessing to the stabbing.

The inquiry, under a high court judge, Mr Justice Kevin Lynch, is required to find out how the charges against Miss Hayes and her family came about and were later dropped.

It is also examining the family's claims that they were pressured into making false confessions.

The senior policemen involved say that she gave birth to twins by two different fathers and that the alleged confessions were voluntary.

Miss Hayes has denied that she gave birth to twins or that she had sex with two men within 48 hours of each other.

A Dail committee on women's affairs this week asked the Justice Minister, Mr Michael Noonan, who ordered the public inquiry — to intervene because of the "insensitive" questioning. Members complained of "mental torture" and of harrowing and horrible cross examination.

## Suicide by prisoner with 17 years to go

by Tom Sharratt

A prisoner serving a life sentence of murder was found hanging in his cell four days after being told that his name would not go to a local parole review committee for another 17 years, an inquest at Wakefield heard yesterday.

The jury was told that in a letter to his sister, Tony Taylor, aged 34, from Birkenhead, who was gaoled in 1980, wrote: "I just can't believe it or understand it. I am to serve a minimum of 20 years."

Later in the same letter he wrote: "Hanging. I would much rather face. I would walk to the gallows with a smile on my face rather than face what lies ahead." He prayed, he told his sister, for a heart attack.

The Home Office decision on Taylor's case was given to him on November 1. On the evening of November 5 Taylor, who was the sole occupant of his cell at Wakefield Prison, was found hanging by a length of twine from the bars of the window. Another piece of cord was round his neck, and a plastic bag was over his head.

Mr Peter Amakin, a prison officer who was on duty when Taylor's body was found by another inmate, said that prisoners were not allowed to have rope, but they had ways of obtaining things. Earlier in the day, Taylor had been in the prison workshops.

He was also concerned about his proposed transfer to Albany prison on the Isle of Wight, because of the difficulty for his family in visiting him there.

Asked by Mr Gill if he was satisfied that no one else was involved in the death, Mr Atherton replied: "I am quite satisfied."

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, for Mr Taylor's family, told the inquest that in October 1983 there had been a change in Home Office policy on parole reviews.

Mr Atherton agreed with Mr Fitzgerald that under the new policy certain categories of prisoners were likely to serve a minimum of 20 years.

The inquest continues today.

## Life savings bill for job

A 64-year-old woman handed over almost all her life savings when she paid a man £11,350 to relay a drive, tidy up paths, lop trees, and demolish two sheds, Oxford Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Richard Jenkins, prosecuting, said that Michael Joyce, aged 26, of Slade Park, Oxford, and another man turned up in a van at Miss Millicent Powell's bungalow at Grove, Oxon, in February 1983 offering their services.

She agreed to the work without asking for an estimate, and when it was completed by Joyce and other men in two mornings she was given a bill for £3,500 labour and £2,000 for materials.

Mr Jenkins said: "She told the men this was almost all her savings, but they took no notice." Later she stopped one cheque for £8,000. Then she had to pay £730 to have Joyce's work put right.

Mr Jenkins said a builder has estimated that Joyce's



Millicent Powell — sought no estimate

work should have cost £624. Joyce denies obtaining £11,350 by deception. His counsel, Mr Nicholas Brown, said Joyce was a victim of mistaken identity. He went on: "The defendant will tell you that it was not him but his uncle ... The case continues."



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مكتبة الجليل



## Bishops take fish off menu for penance

By Martyn Halsall,  
Churches Correspondent

EATING fish on Fridays as a penance is finally abolished today for Roman Catholics in England and Wales.

Options now approved by the bishops include abstinence from smoking and drinking, making "special efforts" in prayer and Mass attendance, helping the poor, sick and elderly and giving money saved by fasting to the hungry.

The church never meant the weekly commemoration of the Crucifixion to involve eating fish, the bishops say in a statement. "Abstinence always meant the giving up of meat rather than the eating of fish as a substitute."

The ruling aims to bring personal practice in line with the Code of Canon Law published in 1983.

The English bishops decided in 1966 that the traditional abstinence from meat on Fridays should be placed among a number of options, after a general directive from Pope Paul VI.

The bishops' statement says repeated and deliberate avoidance of penance on Fridays is sinful. The church's law on abstinence applies to everyone over 14 and the law of fasting to those between 18 and 60 among the 42 million Catholics in England and Wales.

Fasting is defined as a considerable reduction in food consumed; abstinence as the giving up of food, drink or amusements. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are particularly prescribed as days of fasting and abstinence.

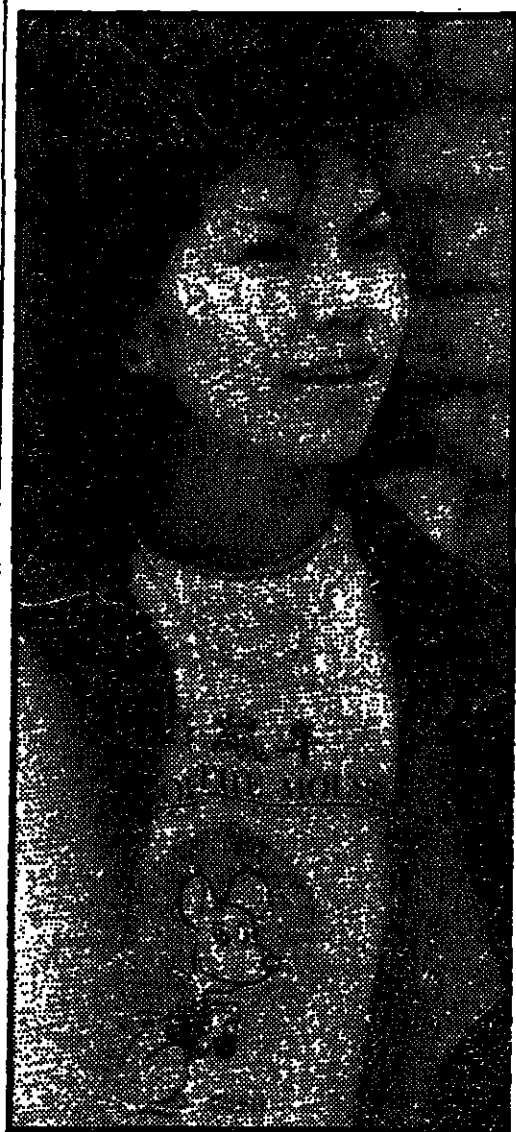
The faithful are to decide which form of weekly penance to adopt.

## Spending cuts

In yesterday's Guardian it was reported that local education authorities faced spending reductions of 32 1/2 per cent between 1985-86 and 1986-87 and 25 per cent in 1987-88. These figures should have read 3 per cent and 2 per cent.

# Breaking away from the takeaway

Martin Wainwright on officialdom's inquiry into Britain's discreet Chinese



Braving an ancient Chinese proverb — avoid entering the door of a government office as you would avoid entering hell — a committee of MPs has called for closer links between Britain's Chinese community.

The first major survey of the 100,000 Chinese in the country's third largest ethnic community after West Indians and citizens from the Indian sub-continent suggests that problems exist behind a discreet, self-contained facade.

Traditional unwillingness to complain to the authorities has led to a very low take-up of social services. One elderly Chinese discovered by the committee had led a hand-to-mouth existence without any state help for 14 years after being disabled in a car accident.

The MPs also found that the introspection of the community meant that the Chinese were unlikely to have any interest in local authority services like lunch clubs or day centres.

Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Paddington and chairman of the Commons home affairs sub-committee which carried out the survey, said that many younger Chinese were anxious to escape from the community's isolation. They were looking for jobs outside catering, which is thought to involve some 90 per cent of British Chinese.

"We may be seeing a break-away from the takeaway," he said. The nature of Chinese

catering, with its unsocial hours and the scattering of the community to avoid too much competition between restaurants, conspired to increase the community's isolation.

The MPs agreed on 77 recommendations to publicise government services, increase specific Chinese facilities and cross the language barrier. Most would be the responsibility of local authorities and none would be particularly expensive.

They also rejected the traditional image of the Chinese as a community living in the shadow of organised crime. The report says that there are no "triad" secret societies in Britain and that the word "triad" should be dropped from the police's vocabulary.

The survey deliberately excluded all matters relating to the future of Hong Kong, arguing that these were the concern of the Commons foreign affairs committee.

More than 90 per cent of British Chinese are from Hong Kong, and many still use the colony for medical treatment and their children's education. They feel that the end of the colonial link in 1997 will do more to encourage them to participate in British public life than any other measure.

The Chinese Community in Britain, House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, HMSO £6.90.

Left: Modern Chinese image in London

Right: Traditional dress in Liverpool

## Inquiry into eye trouble cases near waste plant

By Paul Hoyland

An eye specialist is to conduct an inquiry into the alleged incidence of eye deformities in children living near the Re-Chem waste disposal plant at Pontypool, South Wales.

Mr Alec Karsenas, consultant ophthalmologist at St Woolos Hospital, Newport, Gwent, has accepted Re-Chem's invitation to carry out an independent investigation. But parents may not cooperate, as he has been appointed by the company.

Pressure groups have been campaigning to stop Re-Chem disposing of the chemical PCB, which if incinerated at too low

a temperature can produce dioxin, which has been linked to cancer.

Cases of children with serious eye deformities have been reported at Pontypool and at Bonnybridge, Scotland, where Re-Chem's other plant was closed last year on economic grounds.

Mr Malcolm Lee, Re-Chem's managing director, said yesterday that Mr Karsenas had been asked to act as an independent authority because the company believed that publicity about allegations of deformities had been misleading, and had caused unjustified concern in the Pontypool area.

## Teachers pass computer test

By Peter Large,  
Technology Correspondent

Around 30 per cent of Britain's 500,000 school teachers have become officially "computer literate" over the past four years after taking the basic courses organised by the government's Microelectronics Education Programme (MEP).

Nearly 14 per cent have also taken week-long "familiarisation" courses covering more specific areas, such as the effect of microelectronics on working life.

Mr Richard Fothergill, director of MEP, gave the summary of the programme's four-year progress at the opening of a computers-in-education exhibition in London yesterday. The programme has an

annual budget of about \$4.5 million, but is due to end in March, 1986.

Earlier yesterday, the Education Department published a summary of a survey of computers in secondary schools, made last summer.

It shows that virtually every school now has at least one microcomputer with an average of 8.7 computers per school. The figure is higher than any other nation has achieved, but it still means only one computer between about every 148 pupils.

The survey also shows that computers are still mainly used in narrow ways. Only 8 per cent of courses in the humanities and geography use computers and even in busi-

ness and economics the score is only 20 per cent.

Yet 65 per cent of science classes use computers and 56 per cent of mathematics classes.

Opening the exhibition yesterday, Mr Bob Dunn, the junior education minister, announced that MEP is moving up to the "16-bit" world.

A common measure of computer power is the number of bits of basic information a machine can handle simultaneously. Most computers in schools are only eight-bit.

Mr Fothergill said that MEP, which has spent about £5 million on software development, is inviting bids for its first 16-bit software contract.

## 'Overt' questions for GCHQ staff

By Richard Norton-Taylor

GCHQ staff, facing their five-yearly positive vetting interviews, are being asked overtly political questions, including what they think about Mrs Thatcher's performance as Prime Minister.

They are also being asked about their attitudes towards the miners' strike, Mr Arthur Scargill, Mr Tony Benn, the Greenham Common women and the situation in Northern Ireland.

Mr Dennis Mitchell, a senior GCHQ official who has applied for early retirement, said recently that the union ban there had divided the workforce and could lead to staff being "in a sense political appointees." The workforce had traditionally reflected a cross-section of opinion, but that could change because of the management attitude and with new recruits being forced to "toe the line," he said.

One Civil Service union leader yesterday asked whether staff would be questioned about different political leaders if there was a change in government.

Until now, civil servants in

posts subject to positive vetting have been asked whether they have been members of or in sympathy with Communist, Trotskyist or Fascist organisations, or a group which practised "unconstitutional activities in pursuit of its political objectives."

The Security Commission said in a 1982 report that character defects rather than disloyalty for ideological reasons or subversive tendencies had been the cause of all known spy cases over the previous 20 years. (However, it said that relations with a "subversive organisation" as well as character defects should become a criterion for blocking positive vetting clearance.)

The disclosure that the questioning is being broadened comes at a time when the First Division Association, which represents about 3,000 senior civil servants, is expressing concern about evidence that the Government is extending the system elsewhere in Whitehall to cover pressure groups, including the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. The association has asked the Government for talks about how it operates the vetting system.

## Nuclear safety approval illegal, group claims

By Roger Milne

The Nuclear Installation Inspectorate is taking legal advice over a claim that the reactor safety checks it has carried out since 1974 have been done illegally.

The claim was made by Friends of the Earth during its closing submission to the public inquiry into the Central Electricity Generating Board's proposal to build a pressurised water reactor (PWR) nuclear power station at Sizewell on the Suffolk coast.

Mr John Howell, counsel for the environmental pressure group, said that the inspectorate was wrong to base its safety assessment of the PWR reactor on the requirements of the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act, rather than the more stringent 1965 Nuclear Installations Act.

During an eight-hour final statement, Mr Howell said the inspectorate has "adopted fundamental principles based upon considerations of reasonable practicability which have no place in the standard of nuclear safety required by Parliament."

"In so far as the decision to grant a site licence was based, or had regard to such principles, it would be null and void."

For the same reasons Friends of the Earth believes that all nuclear site licences granted by the inspectorate since 1974 are invalid.

Mr Howell also claimed that the then Energy Secretary, Mr David Howell, had misled MPs in 1983 by saying that the Sizewell B inquiry would be able to consider in detail the safety of the PWR project.

Counsel claimed that when Mr David Howell said this he was already aware that his promise to a Commons select committee — that the inquiry would not start until the inspectorate had enough information to give the PWR reactor full safety clearance — could not be fulfilled.

Mr John Howell said this statement was misleading since the inquiry had heard that only three quarters of the safety issues between the inspectorate and the board have been resolved — or are close to solution.

# THE P.M. AT 9.30 P.M.

'Live' on Thames Television's *TV Eye* tonight, the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher talks to Sir Alastair Burnet, at a time when she's facing possibly some of the greatest difficulties of her second term in office.

Has she learnt a lesson from the fall of the pound? What do her plans for cutting

unemployment really add up to? Is she prepared to see the miners' strike go on and on? And does she think nuclear disarmament is likely to fail over the crucial 'star wars' issue?

The Prime Minister discusses these and other issues with Sir Alastair Burnet on tonight's edition of *TV Eye*, 9.30pm on ITV.

## THE MARGARET THATCHER INTERVIEW

TV EYE 9.30 tonight on ITV





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## OVERSEAS NEWS



Bullet victim: Pedro Garcia, aged 51, is helped away by friends after being shot in the right eye by a police rubber bullet in Vitoria, northern Spain, yesterday. He was one of 500 jobless workers demonstrating outside the Basque parliament building where a meeting to elect a nationalist regional premier was being held. Police also used teargas against the crowd.

### Decision seen as goodwill gesture before Stockholm talks

## Nato drafts declaration to emphasise non-aggression

By Hella Pick  
The Nato Allies are preparing a draft declaration on the non-use of force, ready for negotiation at the European Conference on Confidence-Building and Disarmament in Stockholm, as a gesture of goodwill towards the Soviet Union.  
The decision to support such a declaration is part of a distinct effort all round, including the Warsaw Pact countries, to reach at least an interim agreement at the Stockholm conference in time for the tenth anniversary of the Helsinki Declaration at the end of July.  
Nato support for a formal affirmation of the non-use of force is in response to long-standing Warsaw Pact proposals for non-aggression treaties between the 35 signatory countries of the Helsinki Declaration — all of Europe with the exception of Albania — together with the US and Canada.  
Until now, the West has argued that the United Nations

Charter and the Helsinki Declaration contain adequate commitments to the non-use of force, and that there was little point in further "declaratory" gestures at Stockholm.  
However, when the Stockholm conference reconvenes on January 28, the Nato countries intend to inform the other delegations that they are now prepared to modify their stand.  
They will insist on a wider package, with the Warsaw Pact countries willing to accept an improvement in "military transparency" involving an exchange of information on troop movements and military manoeuvres in Europe, designed to increase confidence, and to guard against accidental war.  
Soviet diplomats have already indicated that they are interested in a compromise, and hope that an interim agreement can be reached this summer. Similar optimism was expressed this week by the leader of the US delegation in Stockholm, Mr James Goodby.

Nato diplomats are meeting in Brussels today and tomorrow to prepare a common brief for Stockholm. While there is now agreement on a declaration on the non-use of force, they want to stop short of formal non-aggression treaties.  
They also continue to reject Warsaw Pact proposals, also

Obsolete weapons, page 19

This is the first time that President Chernenko's name has been directly associated with the Geneva agreement to negotiate with the US.  
Officials in Moscow acknowledged that Mr Chernenko is ill and that last week's Warsaw Pact summit was called off because he would have been unable to attend.  
Despite unconfirmed reports that the Soviet leader had to be treated on a respiratory machine last week, the Kremlin is emphasising that his health gives no cause for concern.

The Stockholm Conference, an offshoot of the Helsinki Declaration Review Conference, has been in stalemate since it began just over a year ago.  
The present optimistic mood and the interest in compromise at Stockholm is widely seen as a reflection of the successful outcome of the Geneva super-power meeting.

## Howe plans Germany discovers Reagan to visits to Soviet spy manual stress E. Europe prosperity

By our Foreign Staff  
The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, is to visit Poland as part of a government plan to play an active role in the East-West dialogue.

Warsaw will be the Foreign Secretary's last stop in a trip from April 8 to 13, when he goes to East Berlin, and then to Prague. Sir Geoffrey is also going to Romania on February 8 and to Bulgaria on February 10 and 11.  
While high-level contacts with these countries is considered important, the visit to Warsaw has added significance because it marks the most decisive step yet in the normalisation of relations between Britain and the Polish regime. It also demonstrates that Poland has overcome its irritation with the visit of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Minister of State, to Warsaw last autumn.

Mr Rifkind met leading Polish opposition members, and also made declarations at the grave of the murdered priest Father Popielusko, which were harshly criticised by the Polish government spokesman.  
Warsaw also warned that it would expect official visitors to keep to a mutually-agreed programme, the German Foreign Minister, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, soon afterwards cancelled a visit to Poland at short notice after apparent disagreement about his programme.

The Italian Foreign Minister, Mr Giulio Andreotti, went ahead with a visit to Warsaw just before Christmas, and visited Father Popielusko's grave.

In London yesterday, officials said that Sir Geoffrey would follow a "disputed" programme, and that it was reasonable to assume that the Foreign Secretary would meet General Jaruzelski.

From Anna Tomlinson in Bonn  
The Government has obtained a Soviet directory, known as the Red Book, instructing agents to acquire information on all kinds of Western technology and promising them rapid promotion if they fulfilled four contracts a year.  
The book, the size of a telephone directory, is entitled "Coordinated demands for technological information tasks" and is kept and used by Soviet diplomatic and trade missions, according to a report of the Bonn Interior Ministry. A spokesman said that it was obtained by West German counter-intelligence agents.  
It gives top priority to information on missile guidance systems, radar, and rocket technology, anti-tank and anti-submarine systems, micro-electronics and large computers. But agents are also requested to acquire apparently harmless details of tractor hydraulic systems, which the Ministry said could be used in Soviet armoured vehicles.  
The ministry pointed out that Soviet block trading com-

panies in the West were increasingly being used to acquire strategic goods which were subject to embargo.  
The Government warned recently that the Soviet Union, and other Eastern block countries, had stepped up their industrial espionage activities, considerably adding that 150 Communist agents have been convicted in West Germany in the past five years.

Last November, West German intelligence authorities arrested a suspected Soviet spy at the Munich-based Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm aerospace company, who is alleged to have betrayed secrets on the Tornado fighter aircraft to the Soviet Union.  
While highlighting the danger of espionage, the Government and West German industry have made clear their reluctance regarding American-imposed restrictions on the export of sensitive advanced technology to the Soviet Union, a point raised this week in trade talks in Bonn with the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Alexei Antonov.

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President Reagan's advisers are hoping that his visit to Bonn in May can be arranged so as to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the VE-Day commemoration controversy. It is hoped to emphasise the positive and prosperous aftermath of 1945, rather than its grim inheritance.  
Mr Reagan is due to take part in a routine economic summit of Western and Japanese leaders in Bonn on May 2 to 4. He is expected to accept an invitation to make an official visit to West Germany either before, or more likely, just after the summit as part of a wider programme which will probably include his first visits to Spain and Portugal.

Mr Reagan's presence in Europe so close to the May 8 anniversary of German surrender has drawn the White House into discussions as to if and how he should participate.

released next month.  
The mayor of nearby Schwabach, Mr Norbert Schoch, has been asked by the city council to write a letter to the Defence Minister, Mr Manfred Wörner, demanding that nuclear missiles not be transported through built-up areas.  
Mr Schoch said there was grave disquiet among the local population about accidents with rockets which, he said, were dangerous even if they did not carry nuclear warheads.  
Six Heilbronn citizens have filed an action with the Constitutional Court, saying that the deployment of Pershing II missiles — and the subsequent danger of accidents — contravenes their basic rights.  
The Pentagon has meanwhile issued modified guidelines for army training, with the new weapons, but declined to give details. An official report on the accident, which happened as the missile was being unloaded, is expected to be

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Walk-out by Kanak leader

JEAN-Marie Tjibaou, the leader of the Kanak independence movement in New Caledonia, walked out of the National Assembly in Paris last night when the right-wing Opposition objected to his presence during a debate on extending a state of emergency in the territory. The Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front declared a provisional government in New Caledonia in December 1 — Reuters.

**Maori stand**  
A MAORI rugby union group is supporting this year's scheduled tour of South Africa by the New Zealand All Blacks team. The central districts Maori rugby council, representing Maori players in the lower half of the North Island said sporting contact was an important means of fostering understanding between people — Reuters.

**Britons deported**  
SAUDI ARABIA has deported 11 Britons arrested at a new year party for drinking alcohol. The Foreign Office said in London yesterday. A spokesman said the Britons were taken from prison and put on a flight from Jeddah to London on Tuesday — Reuters.

**Swiss poll**  
SWISS citizens will be asked to decide a referendum in March next year whether the country should join the UN, a government spokesman said in Bern yesterday. Switzerland is already represented in key UN subsidiary bodies.

**Singapore post**  
HAMILTON Whyte, aged 57, the British Ambassador withdrawn from Nigeria in the diplomatic dispute about the kidnapping of Umaro Dikko last year was named yesterday to take over Britain's mission in Singapore. He succeeds Sir Peter Moon, who has been appointed ambassador to Kuwait. — Reuters.

**Plane threat**  
GUERRILLAS in Southern Sudan yesterday stepped up pressure on the beleaguered town of Juba, by threatening to shoot down civilian flights, writes Nick Cater. Ambushes by the Sudan People's Liberation Army have halted all road and river traffic to and from the town.

**Election date**  
THE Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Mr Mugabe, said yesterday that his country's first post-independence general elections would be held in March, but he did not name a precise date. — Reuters.

**Polish 'spy'**  
FRANCE has asked Poland to recall an embassy attaché who was collecting information on the support for the banned Solidarity trade union. Stanislaw Janczak, aged 33, was a high-ranking Polish intelligence officer. — Reuters.

**Baker vote**  
THE Senate Finance Committee yesterday unanimously endorsed the White House Chief of Staff, Mr James Baker, as the new US Treasury Secretary. — Reuters.

## Ice-hit shuttle all set for today

From Mark Tran in Washington  
THE space agency said yesterday that the space shuttle, Discovery, carrying a top-secret spy satellite, could be launched today, after a day's delay caused by freezing weather.  
The Wednesday afternoon blast-off from Cape Canaveral was put off because of the icy cold. Technicians feared that the low temperatures, combined with moist ocean air, would coat the shuttle's fuel tank with ice, which could have broken off and damaged insulation tiles.  
Despite the secrecy surrounding the shuttle mission, certain facts have emerged. The payload, which is making the fifteenth shuttle mission, is an electronics intelligence-gath-

Spending on space, page 11

miles above the equator. The satellite is to be placed in a stationary orbit 22,300 miles above the equator. The satellite would monitor Soviet missile tests and intercept radio communications over much of Europe and Asia.

It is officially known that the payload contains a rocket system that boosts a satellite into final orbit. The booster, which is a modified version of the one used on the shuttle, is expected to be launched on February 15 and 4.15 pm. However, the air force announced that it would give the public a nine-minute advance notice of the impending launch. The air force described the policy change as an adequate compromise between the legitimate needs of the public to know and US security concerns.

The nine-minute countdown is not expected to give Soviet ships, satellites, and tracking antennae any added advantage in their attempts to track the flight of the Discovery. The time of deployment of the satellite is one of the most closely guarded secrets.

After launching, all communications between the shuttle and earth will be in code — the first time that transmissions will be blacked out from the public.

Another secret is the landing time. The air force said that it would announce the time 16 hours before landing.

## 21 lost in sea crash

From Paul Glickman in Tegucigalpa  
A US military cargo plane crashed off the north coast of Honduras on Tuesday, and American officials held out little hope that any of the 21 passengers had survived.

The Hercules crashed into the ocean a few hundred yards from the port of Trujillo. It was on a routine supply flight from the Howard air force station in Panama to the regional military training centre at Trujillo. All those on board were US military personnel.

A US navy reconnaissance plane with nine men on board is missing off the Pacific island of Guam. A Pentagon spokesman said yesterday. The plane, a modified Sky Warrior attack bomber, was flying from the Atsugi air base, near Tokyo, and was reported overdue for arrival at Guam.

## Nicaraguans blame US for peace impasse

From Tony Jenkins in Managua  
President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua has accused the US of trying to undermine latest national efforts to find a negotiated settlement in Central America.  
The newly inaugurated President was putting pressure on Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador to pull out of next month's talks in Panama, at which ministers were due to complete a regional peace treaty.

Mr Reagan is knocking down every instance where one could look for a negotiated solution. Mr Ortega said. "I think the US felt pressured, that Nicaragua's very reasonable position was gathering support and that Latin American countries were urging him to back Contadora. By abandoning the talks he wanted to prevent Congress with a fait accompli."

Last week, Costa Rica announced that it would not attend the next Contadora meeting on Feb 14 after allegations that Sandinista police trespassed on its embassy's property here to arrest an army deserter seeking asylum.

The Sandinistas rejected the accusation but since the Costa Rican decision, Honduras and El Salvador announced that they would follow suit "in solidarity with Costa Rica."

Mr Ortega believed this was a flimsy excuse for abandoning the peace talks. "We have complaints 1,000 times worse. More than 7,000 of our people have been killed. It doesn't stop us talking. There isn't the pretence here of an adequate excuse for a pull-out."

Mr Ortega said that a peaceful solution in Central America would have to involve direct talks between Managua and Washington. "Our relations have to be normalised, but the concessions they are demanding means the liquidation of the Nicaraguan revolution."

What he called Nicaragua's reasonable position was reflected in a series of concessions made after the elections in November. They culminated in an unconditional amnesty offer to counter-revolutionary leaders in his inaugural speech.

The Sandinistas also started to negotiate with the Catholic Church hierarchy and with Mr

Brooklyn Rivera, a leader of Miskito Indian rebels fighting on the Atlantic coast.

Government is now prepared to grant autonomy to the different ethnic groups on the coast, but when the Sandinista team went to Colombia last weekend, prepared to sign a ceasefire, Mr Rivera did not turn up.

"Rivera was pressured by the United States," Mr Ortega asserted. "The evidence is that he is now being expelled from his organisation for having met us."

Mr Ortega believed that the US Administration was convinced that CIA-led counter-revolutionary forces could overthrow the Sandinistas. "Why negotiate with us when they think we will fail?"

"Our only alternative at the moment is to hit their contra forces and we are hitting them. They haven't been able to stop the coffee harvest and we have driven some groups back to their bases in Honduras."

Mr Ortega admitted that the battered economy was undermining Sandinista support. "Of course, when there is an economic crisis, there is discontent."

"The elections for us were a trial by fire. What other party in Central America could have won 67 per cent of the vote in similar conditions?"

"What other government can give guns to 200,000 militiamen?" he asked. "We have the positive power in the hands of the people."

The main opposition party boycotted the November elections.



President Ortega: Peace talks undermined

## Battle ahead over farm support cuts

From Michael White in Washington

The Administration's plan for reform of the \$30 billion farm support system is running into increasing criticism with every detail of the changes which emerges from the Department of Agriculture.

European diplomatic observers here privately hope that things will stay this way, so that powerful farm interests in Congress and the country will block legislation, which would lower world prices and so affect Common Market farm costs and exports.

In an interview yesterday, the Agriculture Secretary, Mr John Block, again repudiated the interventionist structure designed during the New Deal 50 years ago, when 25 per cent of Americans still lived on farms — only 3 per cent do today — and farm incomes were only 40 per cent of urban ones, which they now roughly equal.

Urging "revolutionary" changes which would seek to create a safety net of supports based on free market prices — instead of government support — including \$4 farms (half in California) which received more grants, and government-held than \$1 million each in 1983, food mountains — Mr Block

said that traditional efforts to maintain farm prices by lowering supply would only result in a greater share of the world market for expansionist agricultural rivals — by implication, the EEC.

With many of America's 2.4 million farms in deep financial trouble, particularly the half-million middle-sized farms which produce 40 per cent of American food, Mr Block's bill would put upper limits on annual subsidies to individual farms, phase out minimum prices for dairy products, and shift many loans from the Farmers' Home Administration to the private sector. The theory is to concentrate help on small farmers.

The agriculture lobbies have already counter-attacked with alternative proposals, but as in Europe, the collision between powerful rural myth and reality on the modern farm appears to impede progress, as it has for several years. The vast majority of US farms are part-time hobby farms.

Most of the rural poor have no links with farms and, at the other extreme, big agribusinesses do very well out of government support — including \$4 farms (half in California) which received more grants, and government-held than \$1 million each in 1983, food mountains — Mr Block

## New rates from Nationwide From 1st February 1985

	Net
Share Accounts	7.50%
FlexAccounts	7.50%
Bonus-7 Accounts	8.75%
Super Bonus Accounts	9.00%
Bonus-90 Accounts	9.25%
Capital Bonds (23rd Issue)	9.25%
The rate of interest on all existing Capital Bonds will be increased by 0.75% from 1 February 1985. The guaranteed extra interest paid on all existing Capital Bonds continues unchanged.	
Subscription Share Accounts	8.50%
Deposit Accounts	7.25%
<b>Mortgage Accounts—New Advances</b>	
The rate of interest charged on repayment mortgages for new owner occupier borrowers is 12.875% from 21 January 1985.	
<b>Mortgage Accounts—Existing Mortgages</b>	
The rate of interest charged on existing repayment loans for owner occupier borrowers will be 12.875% with effect from 1 February 1985.	
Higher rates arising from endowment and pension linked mortgages will continue to apply.	

**Nationwide  
Building Society**  
New Oxford House, High Holborn, London WC1N 8PU.



## Indians question 1,500 in spy probe

From Ajoy Bose in New Delhi

The arrest of more than a dozen civil servants on spying charges during the past week has caused panic in the Indian bureaucracy which fears that a witchhunt may have started. More than 1,500 people are believed to have been questioned so far.

Investigators were reported yesterday to have launched a nationwide search for several missing government officials identified as suspects in the scandal. The Press Trust of India news agency quoted intelligence sources as saying that the police are on the lookout for spies and plainclothes policemen found the suspects had fled and their homes locked up when raided at the weekend.

While only junior officials, mostly clerical staff in sensitive government departments, have been indicted in the scandal, senior bureaucrats in different ministries are on tenterhooks, fearing that they may be implicated.

Most government offices have ceased to function with junior and senior officials too busy discussing the latest arrest to handle their daily work.

In some government departments, personal secretaries and assistants are refusing to carry files on anything remotely related to national security, while many senior bureaucrats have suddenly stopped working late in offices or even taking home.

A senior official remarked: "We just don't want to take any risks at all. If that means work suffers, it suffers."

The panic has been further heightened by newspaper reports on an alleged witchhunt ordered by the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

With the Government declaring a news blackout on investigations into the spy ring, journalists have been forced to speculate. One national daily this week hinted that scores of top government officials, senior military officers, and even some Indian diplomats have been put under surveillance.

Newspapers and news agencies have also been speculating, often without any basis, on the foreign connection of the arrested spies. The recall of the French deputy military attaché, Colonel Alain Boileau, the diplomat alleged to have received secret documents, has provoked a series of unconfirmed reports that more Frenchmen have disappeared from Delhi in the wake of the spy scandal.

The pro-Soviet daily, The Patriot, carried a story this week alleging that five US and West German members of the diplomatic corps here have been asked to leave. The anti-Soviet lobby, on the other hand, insists that the spy ring was being operated by the Soviet Union.

As speculation on the ramifications of the spy ring continues to grow, intelligence officials are believed to have failed so far to establish any foreign connection with the government leaks. The exception appears to be the French military attaché.

The French diplomat is believed to have been known by local intelligence as a naval intelligence officer.

## Troubled Sri Lanka passes the point of no return

From Eric Silver in Colombo

SRI LANKA is trapped in a tragedy of its own making. National and communal leaders are no longer even going through the motions of seeking a political solution to the grievances of the Tamil minority.

Most foreign observers here are convinced that only outside mediation, benign or otherwise, can produce a settlement. The parties themselves have passed the point of no return.

All the signs are, however, that neither India nor the Western donor countries are preparing to act. India, as the regional superpower, has the most leverage. Its armed forces cast a long shadow. The Sri Lankan Government, and the Sinhalese majority for which it speaks, are painfully aware of inhabiting an offshore island of Mother India.

At the same time, India alone has something it can withhold from the militant Tamils. The Tigers would be tamed soon enough if they could not use the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu as a base.

But Mr Rajiv Gandhi has other priorities. Speculation in Colombo and New Delhi notwithstanding, there are no plans for high-level talks. No Indian initiative is imminent. The donor countries whose loans and grants account for 50 per cent of Sri Lanka's budget, are equally reticent. Although some ministers are worried that the West will take its charity elsewhere if there is no progress towards a settlement, the donors have so far imposed no such conditions. That kind of interference is out of fashion.

Sri Lanka receives aid from such "soft" countries as Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia, as well as the tougher-minded British and Americans. It would take a crisis to bring them together in applying pressure.

Communal polarisation is wider than ever. The Tamils, who see their people being killed with impunity by the army in the north, feel like second-class citizens. Their political leaders have failed, and the initiative has passed to the extremists.

THREE policemen were killed yesterday when separatist guerrillas set off a landmine under their jeep in Sri Lanka's eastern province, security officials said. Two civilians in the jeep were wounded and taken to a nearby hospital. On Saturday, guerrillas blew up a train killing 27 soldiers and 11 civilians.—Reuter.

President Jayewardene



The majority, as one Western diplomat put it, is showing itself increasingly as "Sinhalese first, Sri Lankans second." A young woman doctor, recently returned from studying in London, asked me what I thought of the situation here. When I began to talk about Tamil resentment, she interrupted: "They're terrorists. They want to destroy this country. All they understand is violence."

The National Security Minister, Mr Lalith Athulathududal, is probably right when he says that the Government can no longer "sell" negotiations with Tamil politicians who will not take the oath of allegiance to a united Sri Lanka; but President Jayewardene hears some of the blame for that.

A year ago, when he launched his all-party conference, he accepted a compromise with the Tamil United

Liberation Front leaders, by which they agreed to take any autonomy formula back to their constituents. They could not repudiate a separate Tamil state, on which they had fought the last election, but they were saying that partition was not their final word.

By refusing to come up with proposals that had any chance of being accepted by the moderate Tamils, the President cut the ground from under them. He remained a communal leader. He would not challenge Sinhalese complacency by redefining the status of the north-eastern and eastern Tamils.

His ministers are reduced now to contemplating the consequences. Terrorism has spread southwards from the Jaffna peninsula. Mr Athulathududal claims that it is being checked, but he is too realistic to delude himself that it can be eradicated.

Tourism, a big foreign currency-earner, has been greatly reduced. Even though most of the traditional holiday resorts are peaceful, tour operators

are taking their groups elsewhere. Few of the burgeoning Ayerstar Colombo hotels boast more than 40 per cent occupancy.

Sri Lanka is lucky that demand for its high-grade tea has held up, that the Arab Gulf states have not retaliated for the discreet resumption of relations with Israel, and that the donor countries are still paying the bills. But ministers need no reminding that this is a precarious foundation on which to build an economy.

The President is trying to redraw the ethnic map by setting Sinhalese farmers on uncultivated state lands in traditional Tamil districts. But is there enough land available in the right places? Will Sinhalese volunteer to be targets for the gunmen? It looks as if the Government is more interested in playing to the Sinhalese gallery than in solving Sri Lanka's problems.

The pity of it is that, given half a chance, most of the stolid Tamil population would have fought for much less than Eelam, the separate state.

## Chinese give warning to Hanoi

By John Gitting

AS Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea threatened the main base of the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge rebels, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, yesterday warned Hanoi that China might have to teach it another lesson.

Speaking in Bangkok, Mr Wu said that China would not stand idly by if Vietnam continued to provoke Thailand by its operations against the guerrillas, who are supplied from Thai territory.

In Peking, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman claimed that Vietnamese troops on the Sino-Vietnamese border had killed and wounded several hundred people in Chinese villages since November, despite a unilateral truce recently declared by Hanoi.

Two fresh Vietnamese divisions are reported to have moved up to threaten Phnom Mahal, a complex of Khmer Rouge bases 15 miles inside Kampuchea. Thai military officers have said that the Khmer Rouge are counter-attacking to relieve the pressure.

Mr Wu's warning that China would be obliged to teach Hanoi a lesson "is evidently designed to remind the Vietnamese how the same phrase was used in 1979 to justify Peking's invasion of Vietnam, although this time there is no evidence of similar Chinese preparations on the ground."

While stepping up the military offensive, Vietnam has elaborated its peace proposals at the recent conference of the foreign ministers of Laos, Kampuchea, and Vietnam. The final communiqué said that the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, which China demands, could be "paired with the exclusion from the area of the genocidal Pol Pot clique" and with the holding of free general elections with the presence of foreign observers.

The proposals go further than those contained in the communiqué of last year's Indochinese Conference, although they fall short of demands for a prior Vietnamese withdrawal and UN-supervised elections.

China is working hard to demonstrate support for the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean), which backs the anti-Phnom Penh coalition. Mr Wu said in Bangkok yesterday that Sino-Thai relations would reach "an historic peak" when President Li Xiangnan makes the first visit by a Chinese head of state to Thailand in March.

Vietnam, already deeply committed with more than 160,000 troops in Kampuchea supporting the Heng Samrin Government, cannot seriously be said to pose a military threat to Thailand. But Mr Wu's warning against Vietnamese "provocation" of Thailand is a coded threat that if the military changes too drastically within Kampuchea, China reserves the right to take action.

## Twenty-six face trial after assassination of opposition leader at Manila airport

### Ver charged in Aquino murder case

Manila: General Fabian Ver, two other generals, and 23 other men were yesterday charged in connection with the murder of the opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, 17 months after the former senator was killed at Manila airport.

General Ver, aged 65, and eight other people were charged as accessories, and 17 as the principal accused, the Ombudsman, Mr Bernardo Fernandez, told a news conference.

General Ver, a kinsman and confidant of President Marcos, and the others, were also charged in connection with the killing of Rolando Galman, the man the military said killed Mr Aquino. Mr Galman was shot moments after Mr Aquino was murdered.

General Ver has been on leave of absence since he was implicated in Aquino's death by an official inquiry in October. He has said he was not involved.

Mr Fernandez, who brought the charges before a special court, said there was no evidence indicating General Ver's direct or indirect involvement in the murder, and that he could be charged only as an

accessory for allegedly covering up the crime.

Mr Aquino, a political rival of President Marcos, was shot at Manila airport on August 21, 1983, moments after he returned from voluntary exile in the United States. The murder plunged the country into political and economic crisis.

Mr Fernandez said that Mr Galman, whom the military described as a Communist hitman, was used as a decoy to hide the identity of the real assassin. He said that arrest warrants would be served on all 26 within 10 days, but he added that he had recommended those named as accessories should be freed on bail.

He said that he had recommended that others, including Brigadier-General Luther Custodio, head of the aviation security command which provided security for Mr Aquino, should be held without bail.

There was no immediate comment on the case from the presidential palace. General Ver, who cancelled a speaking engagement in Manila yesterday, could not be reached for comment.

The military theory that Communists plotted to kill Mr Aquino was rejected by commission of inquiry last October, as well as by the Ombudsman to whom President Marcos referred the commission's reports.

The commission's majority report named 26 people, including General Ver, as conspirators, while a minority report, which named only seven people, said that General Ver was not involved.

Mr Aquino's family, which boycotted all the investigations, also made no comment. Family sources said that the real culprit had not been named by the official inquiries.—Reuter.



The Philippines Ombudsman, Mr Bernardo Fernandez, announces at a press conference in Manila that General Ver and 25 others have been charged in connection with the killing of Benigno Aquino

## No compromise over Zia's election plan

From Alex Brodie in Islamabad

Attempts to persuade opponents of the military regime in Pakistan to take part in elections next month seem to have failed.

General Zia ul-Haq's Cabinet met on Tuesday and afterwards a spokesman ruled out any postponement of the National Assembly elections, which are due to be held on February 25. A postponement would be necessary if there was to be any compromise be-

tween the regime and opposition politicians.

The date for filing nominations has passed and moments the leaders of political parties has put his name forward.

Last week the regime seemed to be trying to persuade some of the politicians to join in. The disqualification of many of them from taking part in any election was lifted, and a summit meeting of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, the MRD, was allowed.

Many of the leaders of the 11 MRD parties were allowed to meet at the home in Abbottabad of retired Air Mar-

shal Asghar Khan, the leader of one of the parties and a veteran detainee of the regime, who emerged from five years' house arrest last October. Usually the MRD leaders are kept apart by detention or internal exile. However, some, all left wing, could not attend, as they are still in gaol.

In the event the MRD disappointed the regime. It reiterated its unwavering commitment to the 1973, Western-style, parliamentary constitution, and roundly condemned General Zia's non-party election as a fraud.

The only reason for the

Government's apparent concessions, said an MRD spokesman, was that it could not find enough people to stand in its elections.

The regime responded within hours of the MRD's statements. It announced that there could be no more opposition summit meetings, arrested three leaders and barred others from attending a planned follow-up meeting in Lahore.

Then the Cabinet met and apparently put paid to speculation that the elections would be postponed to allow an accommodation with the politicians.



Mr Chris Heunis: Seeking political solutions

## S. Africa considers forum to end blacks' political isolation

Committee seeks to rebut charges of indifference

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

A "negotiating forum" to give blacks an opportunity to influence the process of political reform may be set up by the Government, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister of Cooperation and Development, said in an interview published yesterday.

Such a forum would encourage black leaders now functioning outside officially sanctioned political institutions — to contribute to the discussions in the special cabinet committee on the political future of blacks. Dr Viljoen said the Government would be excluded from the tripartite Constitution for whites, Coloureds, and Indians being forged by constitutional planners. It has been used to rebut charges that the Government is indifferent to the future of millions of blacks outside the "homelands."

The committee's work has been largely confidential but it has failed to attract much interest from blacks except, possibly, those holding office in government-created political institutions in the "homelands" and in the black townships.

Dr Viljoen's statement in the Rand Daily Mail is the first

clear sign of official concern at the lack of enthusiasm for its bid to reform the political system.

Dr Viljoen, a member of the cabinet committee, pinpointed one of the committee's conspicuous weaknesses: it represents only one party, the Government, involved in the process of reform.

While wanting constructive input from black leaders outside the system, Dr Viljoen laid down two prerequisites for reform: acknowledgement of South Africa's ethnic diversity and the need for group differentiation in political structures; and the need to maintain South Africa's socio-economic and political standards.

A spokesman for the United Democratic Front, Mr "Terror" Lekota, was cool

about Dr Viljoen's forum concept.

He feared that it was a prelude to creating a "fourth chamber" in the new tripartite Parliament for blacks living outside their supposed "homelands." Anticipating an attempt to divide blacks into different camps, he said: "We cannot see our people accepting this. Only a constitution embracing all the people will bring peace."

## Wide disagreement on future of Taba

From Arie Haskel in Jerusalem

In advance of the talks to be held on Sunday in Beer-sheva on the future of the disputed border strip of Taba, south of the Israeli Red Sea port of Eilat, the US ambassador, Mr Samuel Lewis, yesterday conferred with the Foreign Minister, Mr Shamir.

At Sunday's talks the American delegation is expected to include a representative of the multinational force (MFO) charged with monitoring Israeli-Egyptian peace in the Sinai desert.

Concurrently with the meeting between the ambassador and the foreign minister, Israeli officials conducted separate background briefings for local and foreign correspondents. From these, it became clear that the starting positions of the Israeli and Egyptian sides will be different, with the Egyptians seeking international arbitration to settle the future of the Taba area.

The Israelis stress that they see the Beer-sheva talks as no more than technical negotiations of present problems which could be the forerunner of high-level talks between Israel and Egypt.

Even on the future role of the MFO, the gap between the sides is wide, with Egypt saying that the force should take the total responsibility for the maintenance of security and law and order there.

The Israelis, on the other hand, say that since there is an Israeli luxury hotel, tourist village, and beach facilities at Taba, law and order has to be an Israeli responsibility, although they agree that overall security should be safeguarded by the MFO.

The Israelis make no secret of the fact that they think Egypt is exaggerating the importance of this small border strip, pointing out that Israel has adhered to the letter of the peace agreement returning the whole of Sinai to Egypt.

He expanded to include other aspects of the border areas between the two countries, such as the future of a canal camp residents in the Rafah area, who are cut off by the border from jobs in the Gaza Strip, and the recovery of the bodies of Israeli soldiers still missing.

Israel's Foreign Ministry has meanwhile won Cabinet approval for the idea of reactivating the Israeli consulate in Hong Kong, in preparation for Britain's handing the colony back to China in 15 years' time.

The last Israeli diplomat left Hong Kong 10 years ago, and since then its interests have been handled by a member of the local Jewish community, who has served as honorary consul.

In southern Lebanon, the skies cleared yesterday and the cold wind dropped, enabling the Israeli forces to speed up the withdrawal of heavy equipment and the dismantling of army camps in the Sidon area and along the Awali river. Evacuation of this part of southern Lebanon is due to be completed by mid-February.

Patrick Kenney adds: Britain is ready to provide additional logistic support for UNTL, the United Nations force in Lebanon, which might include help on land and air transport facilities, as the Israeli forces move out.

The pledge was given by Mrs Thatcher to the UN Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, in her talks with him in London yesterday.

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, later told Parliament that "the British Government has emphasised to all parties the need for agreed and effective security arrangements in areas to be vacated by Israeli forces."

"A UN presence could play a valuable part in these arrangements. It is important that all the governments concerned, not least the Lebanese, should now make practical proposals," he said.

## The Woolwich New Interest Rates

Woolwich Mortgage Rate  
The specified rate of interest charged on new repayment mortgages for the purchase or improvement of owner-occupied residential property is now:

**12.875%** equivalent to **9.013%**  
Net rate payable on eligible loans with mortgage interest tax relief at 30%

An additional 0.5% is charged for new endowment mortgages. The rates of interest charged on existing mortgages will be increased by 1.125% on 1 February 1985 or 1 May 1985 in accordance with the terms of the mortgage contracts. Details of revised monthly payments will be sent to endowment borrowers in the course of the next few days.

For Woolwich borrowers, there are still no differential rates however large your mortgage.

Woolwich Investment Rates  
From 1 February 1985, increased investment rates will be as follows:

SHARE ACCOUNTS	7.50% net pa	= 10.71% gross*
7 DAY ACCOUNTS	8.75% net pa	= 12.50% gross*
90 DAY ACCOUNTS	9.25% net pa	= 13.21% gross*

\*For basic rate taxpayers

The rate of interest on all Flexible Term Shares, Investment Certificates, Monthly Income Shares, Premium Interest Shares, Savings Plan Accounts, Guaranteed Bonus Shares, 28 Day Accounts and Personal Deposit Accounts will also be increased by 0.75% from 1 February 1985.

The new rates of interest at the Woolwich give savers and investors an excellent choice of top rates. On our 7 day and 90 Day Accounts, penalty fees immediate withdrawals can be made provided £10,000 or more remains in the account.

No wonder more and more people keep saying "I'm with the Woolwich!"





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Pictures by Frank Martin

Left: Charcoal wool flannel double-breasted suit with five red pin-stripe, 36-46, £413; striped cotton shirt, 14½-17, £63; black silk tie £12.50; silk polka dot handkerchief, £12.50 — all from Saint Laurent Rive Gauche, 135 New Bond Street, W1 and 35 Brompton Road, SW3.

Centre: Grey slub silk double-breasted suit by Egon von Furstenberg, 36-44, £225; white cotton twill shirt (also pale blue and pink) 14½-16½, £29.95; Paisley silk square from a selection, £6.95; blue silk tie with grey polka dots, £15.95 — all from Woodhouse, 99 Oxford Street, W1 and branches.

Right: Grey wool mix double-breasted suit, 36-44, £110; lemon and white striped polyester-cotton shirt, 14½-16½ (also pink/white, aqua/white and grey/white), £12.99; wine and black striped silk tie, £9.99; black leather lace-ups (also dark tan), 6-10, £32.99 — all from Next for Men, 62 South Molton Street, W1 and branches. Enamel bar brooches by John Merchant (from a selection), £9.95 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Hand-painted silk handkerchief, £16.50 from Blades of Savile Row, 8 Burlington Gardens, W1.

Below: Grey pin-stripe wool double-breasted suit with decorated stripe, 36-42 jacket / 30-36 trousers, £89.95; white cotton satin stripe shirt (also white, blue and cream), 14½-17½, £14.99; brown lace-up Oxfords (also black), 6½-11½, £25 — all from selected branches of Marks & Spencer (suit available from end of February). Black hand-painted silk tie with abstract design, £28.50 from Blades of Savile Row, 8 Burlington Gardens, W1.



GIVING the rest of the country's retailers a nasty turn, George Davies, erstwhile king of coffee morning salesmanship and now the extremely youthful chief executive of the Hepworth group, has just launched his new retail chain, Next, at a high street when, three years ago, he launched Next, the chain of women's clothing shops targeted at sections of the market newly discovered by the statisticians: the 25-40 year olds mostly neglected by a retail industry myopically focused on the young.  
His success left many competitors badly rattled and triggered a number of copycat operations. The result has been to make a wide choice of well-designed, nicely made clothes available to women at comparatively low prices. It also provoked a healthy new sense of rivalry between the various manufacturers and retailers involved, and their employees. Now that they are all at every level and with off-the-record insouciance, deploring each other's product, premises and motives, it is all so much more fun than the somnolence and discretion of yesterday.  
And it means that the momentum must and will be kept up. So last autumn George Davies turned his attention to men's clothing. His timing was impeccable. A new awareness of clothes among younger men was creating a demand which was simply not being met by middle-aged retailers. If a man was in the market for top-price Savile Row tailoring or ready-to-wear from Yves

Saint Laurent, Gianni Versace, Giorgio Armani, Gianfranco Ferré or Paul Costelloe, he could have what he wanted. Even menswear boutiques like Woodhouse, Bazaar or Ebony import most of their merchandise and it is not cheap.  
In the part of the menswear market which corresponded with Next's position in the women's clothing market, there was a gap which only Marks & Spencer had attempted to fill in terms of quality and price. But the Marks & Spencer ranges are essentially classic and conservative, the company's policy towards fashion always cautious.  
However, the enthusiasm with which customers embraced Next for Men surprised even George Davies. "When we launched the original Next," he says, "I knew that we were entering an area where there was enormous room for growth. What I have learned over the last six months and what I did not realise at the time of the launch is that there is even more room for growth in the menswear area. The response to our merchandise has been astonishing and educational. The most fashionable items, the garments we actually thought of as risky, sold out first."  
But the most interesting result of the first season's trading has been the emphasis on more formal clothes. "We conceived the range as principally a casual, leisurewear one," he says, "but the biggest demand has been for suits. That is undoubtedly because we

offered up-to-the-moment fabrication and cut at extremely good prices. And no one has ever done that before.  
"Men are as aware of what other men are wearing as women are of what other women are wearing. So most men have noticed that fabrics and proportion have changed at the top of the market — where they cannot afford to shop — but remained stagnant at the bottom and in the middle."  
Since his previous experience is all in women's clothing, George Davies had no inhibitions about approaching a menswear range in the same way. He put together a design team consisting of six women and two men. "I wanted this team to think different from the way any other menswear design team had thought before and there was a problem in that most of the men who had previously worked in menswear were stuck in old, stale ways of thought."  
The same was true of sales staff who had worked in other mass-market menswear shops. An important factor in lifestyle marketing — identifying a customer within fairly narrow limits and aiming your merchandise forcefully at her/him/them — is the ambience in which the product is sold. A major part of the ambience is the people doing the selling.  
"If the customer cannot, to some degree, identify with the way the salesperson is dressed, he or she will instinctively feel that the merchandise in the shop is probably wrong for them. But it is not just a bad thing

psychologically; it is wrong in practical terms. If the sales assistant's taste level or sense of fashion is at odds with the merchandise, he or she will be unable to give sympathetic or constructive advice to the customer."  
Davies has never underestimated the importance of brand loyalty among his staff, nor the effectiveness of having them serve as enthusiastic living, breathing mannequins in the shops. "That was one reason why this new menswear range had to be launched linked emphatically to the Next women's range and, completely divorced from the Hepworth's menswear image which is fuddy-duddy and rather middle-aged. As a separate corner in branches of Hepworth's, Next would not have been given the same chance by the customer. They would have been deterred at the doorway."  
Over the last six months an average of three men have been going into Hepworth's in each hour, while 30 go into Next. Just before Christmas the 900 square feet space of the Next shop in South Molton Street took £47,000 in one week. The 6,000 square feet of Hepworth's has never done more than £30,000 in one week. In addition, the experienced menswear retailers said that men would never queue, not to buy clothes. There is regularly a quite contented, patient queue at Next.  
It is quite easy to see what they are queuing for. From an inspection of both the menswear range and the men's formulae can be inferred. The fabrications are

good, imaginative but restrained. The basic cut and body-proportions are classic but in step with the direction of fashion. The details and the coordination are more fashion-conscious.  
In short, the clothes are interesting and fresh-looking but by no means intimidating or overly daring. The best-selling men's suits, for instance, have relaxed front pleats in the straight-legged trousers which every major designer is using and a straight, broad-shouldered, big-in-the-body long jacket.  
"Now that fewer people are required to dress in a strictly formal way for the office, the majority can choose to dress in a way which suits their personal taste and style. It is fascinating that so many are actually choosing a modified formality, a very sharp style of dress," says George Davies.  
He estimated that the growth rate of Next for Men may be twice that of the women's chain. But he is not lying on that alone to keep the momentum going. This autumn he will launch a Next furnishing range designed by Tricia Guild. Is he building department stores department by department? "Well, that's still a very exciting way to shop as long as the management has firm control over all the departments and the taste level is consistent. It is the giving away of great chunks of control by franchising areas that has rendered some department stores confused and characterless."  
Neither confusion nor lack of character so far assail the ebullient Mr Davies.

She didn't know a single soul in England — some difference from now when her name has become a household word.  
The first place in England where she stayed — St Oystin in Essex — on the recommendation of an Austrian Student Bureau was no success. It was like a Dickensian boarding school. The principal ran the school and ran the school on thin rations and ended up cracking a vase over his head from frustration and being taken into custody. The local butchers took Erna in, until she had somewhere else to stay. Her next move was to travel. Later she moved to a Quaker family in Welwyn Garden City. They were surprised, but said nothing when they saw the javelin. "Luckily they lived on the edge of a golf course, so there was no problem practising."  
But by then Erna Low was in love with a young Englishman, so even this strange introduction to English life had its charms. She was establishing herself as a teacher of German and taking her students skiing in winter and to sunny Mediterranean beaches in the summer.  
In 1938, with Hitler's arrival in Austria she transferred her ski trips to Switzerland — she was now personally conducting 200 people a year to her beloved ski slopes. During the war, balked of foreign travel, she went ski-ing on Brecon Hill whilst she worked with the BBC in Worcester and from there she launched her famous house parties for professional families and their friends. At least twenty marriages took place as a result of meeting at her parties and a lot of early guests and their children and grandchildren — are still her friends.  
She has friends everywhere. Swiss and Austrian

Erna Low is more than a holiday company trade name, she is the veteran of the travel business whose Christmas ski party in the thirties started a snowball that never stopped rolling. Eithne Power met her

# The legend of the snow queen

IN the early thirties the following advertisement appeared in the Personal Column of the Times: "Young Viennese undergraduate invites other young people to join her Christmas ski-ing party."  
As a result, Erna Low, the now legendary lady of travel, led her first ski trip into her native Austria and thus paid her return fare. Her party consisted of herself, four young men and a lady called Miss Hudson who was rather older than the others, and came in very handy as a chaperone.  
Erna Low, then in her early twenties, had come to England to learn English and do a thesis on a little known English poet, Lord de Tabley. Her party were destined not just to ski and drink mulled wine; they were also to speak German with their young leader, they were going to enjoy themselves in the bracing Austrian air but they were also going to study.

After three years with the BBC Monitoring Service she joined the Army Education Corps and lectured to the troops on subjects such as the Re-Education of Germany. She travelled all over Britain in her old hoodless Austin 7 called Sunshine Susie. This gave her her first acquaintance with British holiday resorts and stood her in good stead when she started a British holiday operation as part of the Erna Low Travel Service Ltd in 1947.  
She introduced the travel starved public to then little known, tucked away places like Torremolinos, Tossa del Mar, Corsica, Mallorca, the Italian Adriatic, the Algarve and to many ski resorts now featured prominently in tour operators programmes.

She spent all her summer holidays as a child in the lovely little spa town, Baden (outside Vienna), haunted by ghosts of Liszt and Haydn and Beethoven who all summered there in the time of the Emperor Franz Josef. As a child she picked wild cyclamen and mushrooms in the beautiful Vienna Woods. Naturally she's been asked to promote Baden bei Wien and also Baden bei Zuerich, Salsomaggiore in Italy, and Abano/Montegrotto near Padua. She's currently negotiating with a number of spas in Germany and hopes to assist with the promotion of British Spas in due course.  
She never recommends anything she hasn't tried for herself. Only recently she put herself in the hands of an osteopath, an ex-wrestler renowned throughout Baden. "He hurried me round the room like a baby (no mean feat)" she reported, "I felt like a battered bride. But it worked, that's what's important." Erna Low is happier these days with a smaller operation she can control herself and says, with satisfaction, "Strange things keep happening, just as in the old days."

There are few people who can cope with such eccentric requests, which is why Erna Low gets so many of them.

Every hotel she recommended was visited by her personally in those early days, every bed felt for lumps, every kitchen inspected for cockroaches. Her great talent for friendship drew in the hoteliers, their families, her clients, their problems.  
As the father had taken literacy and book keeping to the farflung reaches of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire the daughter brought new vistas, new experiences to an insular chauvinist race.  
Business boomed, the British swarmed on to the beaches and ski slopes like lemmings. Charter flights came in — the first to Corsica, in 1954. Erna Low sold out in 1972. "The only way to acquire capital" — bought back her own name in 1975, started all over again and sold out again in 1979.

Whereupon, instead of retiring to the country cottage she never had time to buy, instead of retreating peacefully to her pretty house in South Kensington to commune with her geraniums and take her apricot poodle for walks, she sprang up again like a phoenix, this time as a

An American came to see me with his family the other day, he was on a few days on a working farm in between a trip to Vienna and the South Tyrol. I thought Good God, whatever we are going to do with this fellow, but I never like turning anyone away so I started thinking, I got out some of my old ski brochures and remembered a farm pension we used to work with in just the right place. Hinterstoder in Upper Austria. I rang them up and the whole thing was fixed in half an hour and they are off to enjoy the excellent cakes baked by the farmer's wife.  
There are very few people who can cope with this sort of eccentric request, which is why Erna Low gets so many of them. "The wheel may be coming full circle," she says "we may be getting back to individual travel as opposed to mass tourism, especially with the introduction of cheaper scheduled air fares."  
She smiles the smile of a contented farmer drawing in his harvest in lovely autumn weather.

## At the sharp end

Brenda Polan talks to the man who launched the successful Next shops for women and then found Next for Men even more popular





THE PERUVIAN SHOP  
45 Elizabeth Street, London SW1  
01-730 7941  
**SALE**  
STARTS SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH  
ENDS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH  
Mon-Fri 10.0-6.0. Sat 10.0-2.0.  
**50% REDUCTIONS AND MORE!**

## TAPESTRY OFFER

This richly coloured tapestry has been designed for us by Edwin Belchamper. Inspired by the motifs of early Persian ceramics, the flowers and window are surrounded by blue and white tiles, and the whole design is enclosed in a rich terracotta and pink border. It makes a lovely cushion or picture, and its warm reds and blues will fit well in any setting.



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Teresa Rolfe in *The Key*, left, and Fiona Kay in *Vigil*, right.

Derek Malcolm reviews *Beverly Hills Cop* and other new releases while, right, Brent Lewis asks Vincent Ward about his new film, *Vigil*, and reports on the emerging New Zealand film industry

## The cop who stole the show

UNLIKE Richard Pryor, whose film parts seem perpetually weakened by the apparent necessity to make a harmless clown out of a much more radical entertainer, Eddie Murphy has taken to movies like a smart duck to water. And American moviegoers have taken in a big way to him. No other black American since Sidney Poitier has crossed so many barriers and achieved so much success. *Beverly Hills Cop* (Empire 15), not in itself a particularly distinguished film, has hit the jackpot simply because of his lively, irreverent presence.

It is the first film he's sustained by himself and within its carefully prescribed limits, it's the perfect vehicle to underline his mass appeal. He plays a self-assured young rogue cop from Detroit who is naturally in permanent trouble with his superiors (interesting that most of them are also black) and who takes an unorthodox vacation when a (white) friend is murdered by unknown assailants. He runs off to Beverly Hills — where most of the policing is white and very orthodox — to crack the case.

The film is a comedy thriller efficiently put together and full of the kind of irony that isn't quite cynicism, directed by Martin Brest to a careful formula. Murphy's Axel Foley is bright, sharp as a bullet, a supreme conman and also endowed with the physical attributes of an earthbound superhero. He is on the side of the angels while reserving the right to plunder a fashionable Hollywood mansion, to foul up police operations and shoot any villain who gets in his way.

Beverly Hills Cop is in no sense a reactionary movie, but its radicalism is limited to a caustic view of an Establishment white and black which isn't about to upset things in its pursuit of the corrupt, and to dispensing lines for Murphy that are superficially shocking, sometimes very funny, but seldom hurtful and blood. Its game is to suggest more than it actually delivers, and on no account to narrow Murphy's appeal by taking too many risks.

As a popular entertainment, though, it does a very thorough job, being better made than *Ghostbusters* and more intelligently scripted and characterised than something like *Police Academy*. With the exception of a few bushy-tailed Murphy at its centre, the ingredients can't fail to gel, particularly since there is very little of the macho sexual nonsense that makes *Wallace* or *Over the Top* so highly polished. *Beverly Hills Cop* leaves a nasty taste in the mouth.

With it is Eva Sereny's nicely played and imagined short, *The Dress*, in which Michael Palin has his first

straight part as a suburban husband with sex in the head rather than in the loins. Sereny, formerly a top fashion and stills photographer, orchestrates the short story with a skill that is the opposite of self-advertising.

Vincent Ward's *Vigil* (ICA Cinema) was the New Zealand film in competition at Cannes last year and typed so hard that disappointment was inevitable. At the London Film Festival, however, this almost Tarkovsky-like art movie was much better received. Unquestionably it is the work of an extremely talented director.

Ward, formerly interested in painting and sculpture, has fashioned what is basically a very ordinary plot into something palpably different. Even the gaunt, rain-drenched mountain and valley landscape, superbly photographed by Alun Bollinger, gives us a new and deeper appreciation of New Zealand, totally at odds with either the tourist brochures or the more sentimental viewpoints of other NZ films.

Into this, Ward inserts a story about a farmer who dies in a remote area and the hunter whose looming presence attracts his widow but frightens the introspective young daughter of the marriage. The film is seen from the point of view of the twelve-year-old Tess (Fiona Kay) and very successfully inhabits the uncertain world of childhood which can so easily interpret adult relationships in a threatening way.

The film can be lambasted for untoward pretension, for trying too hard to be like a European art movie. But few people accused Peter Weir's *Breaker Morant* of that, though it was quite plainly weakened by bows to Bergman, Antonioni and others. Ward, whose short films, *A State Of Siege* (from the Janzani series) and *Spring One* (from *Plants and Animals*), came to a lot of people's notice, deserves credit for sustaining one style throughout and building on it so fearfully.

For all its faults, and possibly even failings, *Vigil* has both a remarkable eye and an internal logic that cannot be denied. With *Constance*, it proves that the New Zealand film is really growing in stature.

Louis Malle's *Crackers* (Odeon, Kensington; Classic, Chelsea, etc. 15), though a disappointment after *Atlantic City* and *My Dinner With Andre*, is jolly enough in itself. Derived from Monicelli's entertaining *I Soliti Ignoti*, otherwise known as *Persons Unknown* or *Big Deal On Madonna Street*, it's a story of petty crooks trying to

outwit a slightly bigger fish in set this time in San Francisco, and pointed up by a bevy of stars.

There's Donald Sutherland as an underemployed security man and Jack Warden as the pawnbroker whose shop he first guards and then attempts to rob. Wallace Shawn, of *My Dinner With Andre*, is his ever-hungry side-kick and Sean Penn the young blood who sets up a new alarm system for the broker that can be easily dismantled.

The Monicelli original was no better acted or scripted than this, but the slums of post-war Rome seemed an apter setting for the caper than do the equally unsalubrious present-day streets of consumer-oriented America. And somehow the Italian film's refusal to press for overt social significance worked in its favour more than Malle's more obviously aware approach.

Still, Malle's comic timing matches that of his cast so that when good moments come they are not the ponderously underscored nor overladen with flashy editing.

The otherwise shrewd management of the Odeon, Haymarket, the current commercial haven for intelligent movies which might otherwise be stigmatised by a specialist tag, must have taken leave of its senses to replace the highly successful *A Private Function* with *Tinto Brass's The Key* (X). But the Odeon's loss is the Lumiere's gain, and now you can see Alan Bennett's first essay into feature films at Artificial Eye's West End headquarters.

As for *The Key*, it has been culled from a novel by Junichiro Tanizaki and might more profitably have remained within a Japanese context. Instead, Frank Finlay is more too convincingly cast as the English husband of a Venetian woman who has never got to the bottom of his wife's sexuality, and indeed has never got to her bottom. This is a pity, as Mr. Brass is quick to rectify.

Poor Stefania Sandrelli exposes herself nobly in the cause of art as her diary-writing old man commits his libidinous thoughts to paper and leaves the results around for her to see. She replies in kind with a diary of her own, and he watches fascinated as his daughter's betrothed assassinates a shy assault on his future mother-in-law.

The film, beautifully shot by Enrico Sasso, is by no means entirely dross. But what could have been a hold-out tale of repressed sexuality is all too often either slightly laughable or downright boring.

Derek Malcolm



## Kiwi fruit springs from a hard terrain

NEW ZEALAND is a tough terrain for film-makers. Only four indigenous features were made in the 35 years up to 1975, and although the past eight years has witnessed a minor industrial revolution with 30 features completed, this latest South Sea bubble may be about to burst.

Generous tax concessions for New Zealand film investment were withdrawn last year, and the industry is keenly awaiting the plans of the new Labour administration.

Although few of the new Cabinet have a great interest in film, the Labour Party claims to value New Zealand's cultural integrity. Its credibility would be tarnished if it failed to give the same support as the government it defeated.

The industry has an enviable track record. While yet to produce an international hit like Australia's *Mad Max*, the producer Larry Parr says that the percentage of New Zealand films regaining their budget is higher than that of any country in the West. "This is because our budgets are

small and the films reasonably good," he says.

The industry's ability to sell its films abroad is illustrated by the London opening of *Constance* last week. *Vigil* tomorrow, and *Utu* next month.

*Vigil* is the latest film of Vincent Ward, a 28-year-old film-maker whose work combines austerity with compassion. "I'm interested in people and trying to make something cinematic," he says.

*State Of Siege* won critical plaudits, including a prize at the Chicago Film Festival. A 52-minute adaptation of a Janet Frame story, it is an extraordinarily tactile film with a Bergman-like intensity. Ward sees it as a form of suspense story turned inside out. You see a woman alone and aware that there's an intruder outside. You learn about her past and fears, not just about the character outside.

*Vigil*, Ward's first feature, which is set in a demonic yet strangely beautiful landscape, looks different from any other New Zealand film. "With *Vigil* I consciously

set out to make a film that was entertaining and accessible without being *Starsky and Hutch*. I think it's important for films to say something as well as entertain. With each new film I try to reach wider without compromising."

*Vigil* has an unusual genesis. "It was like a detective story in terms of the process I went through. I had this dream. In it two men on horses were fighting but instead of lances, one had a possum trap and the other a shovel. I tried to find a way to develop a story which used that dream. It was like a mist you had to uncover."

In *Vigil* the dream becomes that of an 11-year-old girl, played by Fiona Kay, whom Ward found only after two years visiting intermediate schools and interviewing 18,000 children. Ward is a demanding director: "I was tougher on her than I was on any professional actor or actress. If I didn't like what she had done I would tell her it was junk. And if she was upset about anything she kicked me on the shins."

He believes he has to be tough to make a film that

stands apart. "I want the most singular result. Sven Nykvist once said: 'A cameraman is judged by whether he can produce a result that the director wants.' That applies to any member of the crew."

Brought up in a family that has farmed for four generations, Ward has in his time been a hunter, possum trapper, and amateur wrestler. His films offer strong images of rural loneliness and isolation, although his next will be set in a city. "The place is less important than the story. I believe everyone has a story and these are the stories I'm interested in telling."

*Vigil* may be a very personal film, but because of its environment and social background it is firmly rooted in the country's national cinema. As Ward sees it, New Zealand is at a turning point. "In the past five years it has moved from an essentially pioneering society obsessed with the values of necessity to a society which has values other than bread and butter."

"I think it extraordinary that a country can be divided and people get their heads split open over the visit of a

rugby team from a country thousands of miles away. That wouldn't happen in many other countries but shows that New Zealand is now a country whose values are not purely concerned with shelter and produce. This sort of a society is more open to new ways of seeing."

It is not only the lowering landscape in *Vigil* that created a challenge. It is the New Zealanders' quest for an identity. As Maurice Shadbolt wrote in *Strangers and Journeys*: "Take words like success and failure away and there were just people trying to make sense of themselves."

The themes found in the works of such writers as Duggan, Sargeson, Lee and Cross have found their way into New Zealand films, but for how much longer? Unless the new government can find a way to support New Zealand films its best young directors may have to go abroad to work. Ward makes no bones about it: "If there is no more money for the film industry I will leave New Zealand. I don't give a damn where I go as long as I can make films."

Brent Lewis

### BRIEFING

#### Best films

Edith And Marcel (Classics, Chelsea and Tottenham Court Road); Matinee cinema, par excellence in Claude Lelouch's lavish salute to his life and loves. *Reve Me* (various); Adroitly contrived tongue-in-cheek fantasy of urban violence in Los Angeles. *Amadeus* (ABC, Shaftesbury Avenue); Milos Forman's imposing, somewhat academic, screen version of Peter Shaffer's play. *All Of Me* (Plaza); Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin in "body swap" farce with some engaging moments. *1984* (release); Strong performance (Brixton, Hart) and striking design in powerful, somewhat muddled, Orwell adaptation.

#### Best on TV

West The Day Well? (today, C4, 2.30 pm); Intriguingly cold-blooded Faling wartime invasion thriller, from a story by Graham Greene. *Higher And Higher* (today, BBC2, 7 pm); Trivial but brightly handled 1944 musi-

cal showcasing a youthful Frank Sinatra. *Eraserhead* (Friday, C4 11.15 pm); David Lynch's low-budget debut (1978), a pretty nasty but undeniably striking surrealist fantasy. *Devotion* (Saturday, C4 1.55 pm); Hollywood's 1944 notion of the Brontës. *Haworth*, diverting in not quite the intended way. *Vicki* and *My Dinner With Andre* (BBC2, 4 pm); Vivid, if not largely overlooked, condensation of the novel, made by Cavalcanti for Ealing in 1947. *Shawbeat* (Sunday, C4 10.20 pm); James Whale's highly atmospheric version of the Jerome Kern musical. *Front Page Woman* (Wednesday, C4 2.20 pm); Typical snappy Warner programmer of 1933, with Bette Davis and George Brent as rival reporters.

#### Video releases

The splendidly funny spoof disaster movie, *The Big Bus*, is among the new batch of releases on CIC Video, which also includes David Cronenberg's Videodrome.

#### Special interest

Tonight at the National Film Theatre, Hugh Hudson gives a Guardian lecture following a screening of the 70mm version of *Greystoke*, which will also be shown on Sunday. On Sunday evening, Derek Jewell speaks about Jerome Kern as part of the NPT's Kern season, which on Tuesday shows *Cover Girl* and *Centennial Summer*.

At the Barbican Cinema for a week from tomorrow, Ray's *The Home And The World* will be showing, preceded (in separate programmes) by two documentaries on India, *Sword And The Flute* and *Manifestations Of Shiva*.

The Sunday matinee at the Electric Screen, Portobello Road, is *The Mission*. Repertory at the Hampstead Everyman includes two of Ophüls's American movies on Sunday afternoon (*The Exile* and *Caught*) and three of Lang's American ones on Tuesday (*The Big Heat*, *The Blue Gardenia*, *Clash By Night*).

At the Ritz, Brixton, Moroder's version of *Metro* is paired until Saturday with *Blade Runner*, and from Sunday to Tuesday with *The Last Battle*.

At Chapter, Cardiff, *The Company Of Wolves* shows until Saturday, to be succeeded by Broadway Danny Rose; in the second cinema, Herzog's *Where The Green Ants Dream* plays until Tuesday, and the late show on Friday and Saturday is Kazan's *East Of Eden*.

The Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle, shows *Blaze*, the remake of *The Man Who Knew Too Much* until Saturday; next week, the main cinema shows *Paris, Texas*, while Ray's *The Home And The World* can be seen in the second theatre. Nottingham New Cinema is showing Tarkovsky's *Andrei Rublev* until Saturday and his *Solaris* on Sunday.

The science fiction/fantasy season at Bradford Museum of Photography includes Philip Kaufman's remake of *Invasion Of The Body Snatchers* (Saturday and Sunday), and the same director's *The Right Stuff* (Tuesday and Wednesday).

Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast, is showing *El Norte* until

Saturday, with Bartel's *Eating Raoul* as the late-night film tomorrow. At Cinema City, Norwich, *The Return Of Martin Guerre* is showing until Saturday, and *Repro Man* from Monday to Saturday; the Sunday film is *Dr Strangelove*.

Tim Pulleine

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## Thinking hard amid the Grand debris

When a shattering outrage like the Brighton hotel bombing takes place, the instinctive reflex is to demand a sweeping and ferocious response. Last October, this instinct produced two reactions. The first was to find a scapegoat. The second was a demand for wholesale tightening of preventive security in order to stop the unthinkable from happening again. Initial responses of this kind are understandable and natural. But they are psychologically complex. Retribution and guilt sit cheek by jowl with rational effectiveness. And such instincts have almost always proved an unreliable basis for long-term policy and lawmaking.

A decade ago, within days of the Birmingham pub bombings, the Wilson government pushed a temporary Prevention of Terrorism Act through Parliament. That law remains not without its occasional legitimate uses, but also providing a large and convenient fig-leaf for some highly dubious police trawling within the Irish community. It was not a healthy precedent and, as the Grand Hotel bomb showed, it has not prevented the determined terrorist. No subsequent government has publicly accepted this argument. But, to judge by the tone of his remarks in the House of Commons this week, this lesson has been well learned by the Home Secretary, Leon Brittan. On Tuesday, in his statement to the House on the Brighton bomb and on the findings of the inquiry by Mr John Hoddinott, deputy chief constable of Hampshire, Mr Brittan offered no legislative panacea. Indeed, in unlikely agreement with the urgings of Mr Tony Benn, Mr Brittan went out of his way to state that the balance between security and the exercise of civil liberties should not be lightly altered. "Nothing that I have said," the Home Secretary emphasised, "indicates the slightest readiness to slide over civil liberties." Words to remember.

Having said which, there are some very unsatisfactory and unresolved aspects of the Home Secretary's report. One has to be a little cautious about making these criticisms, since the text of the Hoddinott report has been kept secret. Mr Brittan only gave MPs the gist of the findings. He

has even refused to reveal the full report in private, on "privy councillor" terms, to Opposition front benchers. This suggests an element of bluff in Mr Brittan's relatively low profile public response. Nevertheless, the Grand Hotel bomb came close to obliterating the Cabinet Judd against the magnitude of that act, the Hoddinott report exposes two exceptionally serious areas of failure. The first is in the police's physical preparations. Mr Hoddinott has given his Sussex colleagues a pretty easy ride. Their plans were "proper and reasonable." They carried them out "competently and professionally." This is a lot to swallow. The fact is that the Brighton conference area (which included the Grand Hotel) was cordoned off for the week of the Conservative conference. Nevertheless it was pretty easy to get through the barrier and, once through it, access to the Grand was straightforward, at all hours. Searches of the hotel were clearly inadequate, judged not merely by the fact that the bomb went off, but by the admission that not all rooms were searched and by the ease with which it was possible to move around the hotel.

The second big question is whether the police really understood enough about the threat which they faced. Mr Hoddinott says that they had access to the relevant intelligence. Perhaps so. But did they know how to draw lessons from it? Clearly not. Information is one thing, and the Special Branch has plenty of that. Knowledge based on that information is quite another matter. And there is plenty of accumulated evidence that the Special Branch and MI5 do not know how to make sound deductions from the mass of information at their disposal. The Special Branch gets off particularly lightly from what Mr Brittan told the Commons on Tuesday and that may well be because he wishes to protect them from criticism while they are under investigation by the Home Affairs Select Committee. Nevertheless, Mr Brittan is setting up a new improved counter-terrorist liaison group to advise on future threats. Liaison is naturally, blandly welcome. But no amount of liaison is a substitute for improved and better focused methods of intelligence interpretation.

## Bags of convenience

Another disturbing case of lack of proper liaison between government agencies was brought to light yesterday in the

report of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons on the abuse of diplomatic status. One of the principal criticisms is a generally level-headed and balanced set of findings from an investigation prompted by the Libyan embassy shooting and the Diklo kidnapping is directed at the poor coordination between the Home Office and the Foreign Office. The siege of the People's Bureau after the murder of Policewoman Fletcher was made necessary by the Government's correct concern to be seen adhering to the rather sweeping provisions of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations. But the decisions at the end to let all those in the building leave the country, including the murderer(s), and not to search their diplomatic baggage which must have contained the weapon(s), seem to have been taken without reference to the international law experts of the FCO.

In the end it was the Committee that found a loophole in the Convention which could have made it possible to stop the baggage leaving the country: because Libya reserved the right to turn back suspect diplomatic bags when it ratified the Convention, any country with which it has diplomatic relations has the same right in dealing with Libyan bags. The decision to do nothing was based on political judgment, and in view of the large number of potential (and actual) British hostages in Libya we must, however reluctantly, concur with the Committee and those who took it that it was right. Those regimes most likely to abuse diplomatic immunity are also the most likely to engage in tit-for-tat actions.

The Foreign Office comes off worst in the report for failing to cope with the turbulent changes within the People's Bureau, which often left it unaware of the identity of the head of mission and the right of the occupants to diplomatic status. There was nothing to be done about the various palace revolutions in St James's Square, but the FCO could and should have kept tabs on the diplomatic staff, as was shown when it expelled one suspect head of mission as soon as he had been obliged to identify himself. Firmness tempered by pragmatic restraint is a better policy than laissez-faire and undue punctilio, which too often looks like timidity. This does not affect the underlying principle that diplomatic immunity is essential to international relations. Unfortunately the Government, if it now decides on a narrower interpretation, will be swimming against the tide. Diplomatic privilege and its abuse is one of the world's few growth industries.

## A disaster compounded

Those many people round the world who were caught up in the great wave of compassion for the suffering people of Ethiopia may have thought, as they dug into their pockets and purses, that the plight of the stricken land was so abysmally bad that it could only get better. In the past few days, however, it has become cruelly clear that there are uncharted depths of misery yet to be plumbed. The added blow of one of the worst railway disasters in history, was a savage coincidence; but the Ethiopian government's decision to seize a shipload of corn donated by Australians because some of it was intended for a war zone is another example of how man compounds the effects of a hostile nature.

Since the extent of the famine became known, the character of the Addis Ababa regime has been widely broadcast. Whatever else it may be, therefore, the impounding of the shipment was an unwarranted interference in the country's internal affairs is no surprise. The donors thus showed, at worst, a touch of naivety, and the anger of their government in Canberra is entirely understandable. The tragedy is that other potential donors may now be discouraged. Meanwhile it is reported that cholera has struck some of the refugee camps; that measles is running riot among Ethiopian refugees in the Sudan, although there is a large stock of vaccine as close as Khartoum; and, perhaps most startling and frightful of all, that the Ethiopian government has begun to transplant 1.5 million people from the worst drought-zone in the north to more fertile areas to the west of the capital. Whether the new land will remain fertile for long is open to doubt; and the land being cleared is much too close to the area in revolt. At the same time the government now speaks of 9 million famine sufferers, the highest figure yet quoted. In spite of everything, this is no time to stop giving.

## A tax is a tax is a tax

Mr Nigel Lawson hopes to go down in history as a tax-cutting Chancellor. To which end he is prepared—as evidenced by this week's spending White Paper—to hack back still further the budgets for housing

and industrial support. But the methods he is increasingly adopting to provide extra income for reductions in direct tax ought to be a matter of grave concern to all political parties.

According to the White Paper, the Government is planning to make the nationalised industries reduce their level of external finance from an expected £3.2 billion this year (admittedly blown off course by the effects of the miners' strike) to £1.3 billion in the next financial year. A further fall of £178 million is expected the following year followed by a net repayment of £110 million in 1987-8. In other words, by then the Government is expecting nationalised industries as a whole to be bankers to the Government rather than vice versa.

Now it is one thing for this to happen in special cases like gas where the taxpayer has a right to cream off surplus North Sea profits. But quite another when the nationalised industries as a whole are used as a milch cow by the Treasury. In order to make up for the money they have to retribute to the Treasury (which reduces the Government's borrowing requirement) they will have to raise their prices or cut expenditure by more than they would otherwise have done.

There are several objections to this. First, it is a naked exploitation of the monopoly powers of those industries which this government above all, with its concern for competition, should shun like the plague. Second, it is economically unsound because much of the tax cuts they are planning for the lower paid in the Budget will simply be clawed back through higher prices, for water, electricity, gas, transport and so forth. How will this stimulate the economy? Third, it is socially objectionable because the Government is raising money from consumers of the products of the utilities, many of whom are too poor to pay tax in order to redistribute it in the form of tax cuts for those who at least earn enough to pay tax. This is a regressive redistribution of incomes.

All this, of course, is aside from the Government's £24 billion a year of asset sales which is turning nationalised industry capital into income to be spent—the kind of thing which made the Earl of Stockton shudder in the Lords yesterday. What Mr Lawson is engaging in is surrogate, or backdoor, taxation, and it should be honestly reflected in any figures he produces claiming reductions in the overall burden of taxation.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### How the Government missed all its targets at GCHQ

Sir,—As we are about to reach January 25, the first anniversary of the GCHQ "union ban," it is a good time to review what it has actually achieved.

The original announcement emphasised the withdrawal of employees' rights under the Employment Protection Acts in an attempt to avoid public discussion of the work of GCHQ. The fact that GCHQ is now firmly entrenched in the vocabulary of the nation demonstrates the ineffectiveness of that decision.

It was argued that the union ban itself would render the department immune from industrial action. But the action taken by deunionised staff after the "ban" showed this to be a wrong assumption; in fact that industrial action would never have taken place had there still been proper union representation.

The major effect of the "ban," however, has been to lower morale. Staff with marketable skills have de-

cided to pursue their careers in the private sector. Its effect on the operation of the department is incalculable, but it is certainly greater than anything union members caused in the past; they always displayed a responsible attitude to security. This "national security" argument invoked by the Government to win a legal case has also been shown to be false.

In all respects, therefore, the ban has failed to achieve its stated objectives. Even at this late stage the Prime Minister has the chance to show strength of character by admitting the mistake and reversing the decision.

May I conclude with a quotation from a booklet issued to staff attending management courses at GCHQ: "It is particularly important that you create an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect between you and your staff." Wise words. — Robin Smith, 38 Upper Park Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

### A VAT that's all or nothing

Sir,—Peter Fiddick rightly points out (The Media Page, January 18) that once the zero-rating of books and newspapers etc. for the purposes of VAT is abolished, this country will not be free, under European Community law to reintroduce it.

Sixth VAT Directive would also seem to prohibit the introduction of VAT on these items at a rate which is less than the full rate. The choice facing the Chancellor is therefore a simple one: it is all or nothing.—Yours faithfully, Anthony Arnall, Kettering, Northants.

### Miscellany at large

Sir,—Doubtless it was just an electronic aberration, but the other morning the overhead gantry on the M1 southbound (Junction 2) made an interesting and controversial reading as your esteemed journal.

Above the "slow" lane was the number "50"; above the "middle" lane the number "80"; and over the "fast" lane was simply a downward-pointing arrow.

The first, quite clearly, is the speed at which those who know all motorists would like us always to drive; the second, a topical reference to the limit recommended by the Commons Transport Committee; and the third, ironically apt, is what everyone knows all motorists do with their right foot, simply because the police seem unable to get these blinking signs to work. — Yours, etc. Jeremy Kirk, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

Sir,—How curious that my former colleagues Steven Lukes and Richard Gombrich after all these years as Balliol Fellows should only now (Agenda, January 21) be voicing their high-minded opposition to the university conferring honours on serving politicians.

Word of it, I wonder, the same principled stand have been taken had, say, Tony Benn been nominated and not Mrs Thatcher? Come on Steven, you loathe the woman and all she stands for, and that alone explains your campaign. Why not have the honesty to admit it and fight the proposed award on openly political grounds—as you and Prof Gombrich did over Blunt? Instead of wasting valuable Agenda space with such self-indulgent humbug. — Yours John O'Reilly, Oxford.

Sir,—I wonder if any of your readers know when, or indeed why, customers, clients and guests in general all suddenly become "punters"?—Yours faithfully, Nicholas Pritchard, Southampton.

### Well played!

Sir,—As one privileged to give evidence to another committee chaired by the then Sir John Wolfenden, I must say your otherwise excellent obituary (January 21) omits to mention a further contribution that Lord Wolfenden made to society. After his report on vice, he was visited by the then Central Council of Physical Recreation to consider the place of sport in society. His report, published in 1968, has been the mainspring of a much more enlightened attitude to sport in this country. "Man since Adam must work. But man since society has played." Such was the theme of the report. Lord Wolfenden deserves praise for emphasising that sport is a social phenomenon, not merely something for the back pages of the media. Harry Littlewood, London NW1.

## When appeals fall on fuel gatherers' deaf ears

Sir,—The idea of an inquiry into the place of coal within Britain's overall energy budget is a timely one. It would be even better if it looked into the social use of fuels.

It is surprising that the Secretary of State for Energy is not eager to accept such an inquiry. His reluctance is a clear indication that his department no longer listens to the cries of pain which should be sounding through the corridors of the DHSS, and those local councils which are now in the front line in the campaign against fuel poverty.

At the beginning of December, we published an appeal against fuel poverty which was endorsed by the Bishops of Bangor, Llandaff, Oxford, and Swansea and Brecon as well as the Dean of Canterbury. Since its original publication, this appeal has received the support of at least 97 MPs.

But more significant than the action of these leaders of public opinion is the reaction which we are beginning to receive from pensioners and other victims of fuel starvation. Here, for instance, is a quotation from a letter

which we have received. "Fuel poverty is a very good adjective to describe what most of us pensioners are suffering. I am an all-electric household, semi-detached and my house is like a 'fridge.' As I write to you my windows are frozen over and I cannot see out of them, and I dare not increase the heat because I would not be able to pay for it."

"Many pensioners spend long hours wandering round shops to keep warm, but not in Arctic weather like this because they are afraid of slipping and breaking a limb. This they should not have to do; but believe me they do. I support your efforts. Good luck in your campaign."

If the Government is unwilling to investigate this desperate situation, is it not time for the trade unions and the Churches to come together to sponsor their own inquiry? We know that there exists within the universities a large body of research work which would shock the British people if its findings were generally understood. Is it not time for the leaders of the TUC and the Churches to arrange a public inquiry which can

remove every remaining excuse for inaction? Fuel poverty rages, while the mining areas are battling in an unprecedented dispute. The cause of this conflict is said to be overproduction of coal. Obviously no one will have ears for the complaints of the poor, either in the Department of Energy, or in the Government at large, until public opinion can be thoroughly aroused.

—Yours sincerely, Ken Coates, The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation Ltd, Matlock, Derbyshire.

Sir,—As the strike in the coalfields nears its first anniversary, the Labour Party is demonstrating, in disturbingly similar circumstances to 1926, its incapacity to provide within Parliament the leadership and support the mining communities need. Indeed to some extent the Parliamentary Labour Party is falling even more obviously now; in 1926 Ramsay MacDonald, although clearly disliking the trade union leaders, vigorously pursued the miners' case both in Parliament and outside. The question of how a just society may be obtained

within the system of parliamentary government as it has evolved in this country is at the heart of it all. This problem has bedevilled the Labour Party throughout this century, and the huffing and puffing of today's antagonists will become just another sterile chapter unless the fundamental issues are confronted.

How will the next Labour government control the institutions of our country and ensure that they work for the good of our people as a whole? How will it ensure, for example, that our system is made to build proper housing; to provide a good education for all children; find an employment policy that provides work and eradicates the disgraceful class system within industry; give dignity to old age; and, social and physical handicaps.

On the night of the Conservatives' crushing defeat in 1906 Balfour, who had lost his seat as well as his prime ministership, said it was the duty of all Conservatives to ensure that their party "should still control whether in power or opposition" the destiny of our country. This negation of democracy has

been consistently and naïvely ignored by the Labour movement, and this failure has cost us dearly.

Few would question seriously Mrs Thatcher's right to appoint to a vast range of jobs those people who will pursue her policies because they actually believe in them. But in 1925 MacDonald dismissed as "subversive" a demand from his party that future Labour foreign secretaries should have around them experienced members of the Labour Party, acting in a capacity senior to the civil servants.

Again there is little evidence that the Labour Party has grasped that such an appointments system is a necessity if it really wants its policies to be implemented. The Labour leadership, instead of pursuing yet another bout of pointless argument, should promote discussion and planning within our movement to provide the parliamentary means of providing a just society. Democratic socialism must be shown to be achievable, or else we are all lost.—Yours truly, (Cllr) Tom Richardson, County Hall, Oxford.

### Blight light

Sir,—Lynda Chalker's letter (January 19) about the sale of green belt land at the M25/M1/A404 junction is not to be criticised for its contents so much as for its omissions.

Very well: the land was not compulsorily purchased, but sold because the owner felt it was blighted. The important thing is that it was acquired at agricultural prices. The Department of Transport will play no part in the planning decision, but it was the DoT which advertised a "development potential" at a price of £1.5 million per acre. It has encouraged speculators. It is also selling an option intended to assist an acquisition.

Of course the department has to dispose of surplus land at the best price. However, it is not acting entirely properly by creating expectations of vast profits from "warehousing/distribution, industrial or retail use" (to quote the original advertisement). Without this carrot the best price it could obtain is tied to green belt use. This, incidentally, would enable local authority purchase at present prices.

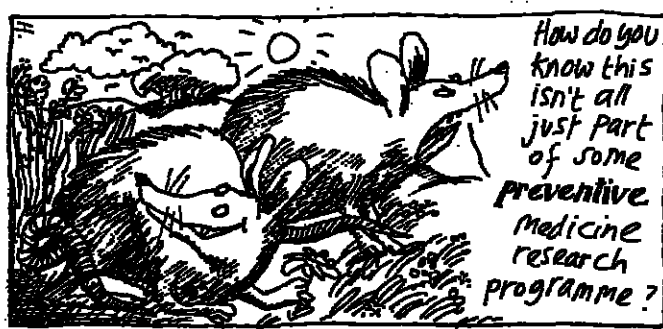
Mrs Chalker has pointed out the possibility of the land planning authority allowing development as an excuse for her actions. She knows full well that such a sale is implicitly opposed to this. In the light of this, she wonders if the Department of the Environment would be so amenable to appeal. The 42 acres could thus be truly blighted.—Yours faithfully, (Cllr) T. Moran, 2 Reedham Close, Brickley Wood, Herts.

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wide range of research into preventive areas. Sir Austin Bradford Hill first defined the relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, was director of our Clinical Trials and Epidemiology Unit. Cigarette smoking remains the one major identifiable cause of a large amount of cancer and deaths from cancer would be reduced by 80 per cent by its elimination. The difficulty in achieving this goal only serves to emphasise the problems in applying the preventive approach, even when the answers are known. But prevention cannot just

### A COUNTRY DIARY

DEVON: Ahead of the Arctic weather vast numbers of birds moved into the South-west. Those that came to this locality, within sight of the Taw-Torridge estuary, were not disappointed for it was one of the last districts to be covered by snow. The modifying influence of the Atlantic is such that this is the only time that snow has lain in the garden in three years and, after 36 hours, a thaw commenced. Argued the

golfers still hold the centre and horse riders can use broad belt around the inland side. A marked walk, starting from the Visitors' Centre, enables the estuarine habitats to be seen without encroachment on the fragile dunes. The pebble ridge, extending along the high water mark and keeping the sea from the sandy terrain in its lee, with success, is a unique natural feature. One never tires of examining the pebbles, some the size and shape of a football. Many are smaller, but

at no point do they degenerate into shingle. Most consist of evenly-grey, sedimentary rock which, in the long process of moving back and forth on the seabed, has acquired a perfectly smooth surface. The pebbles are of absolute regularity of form but are enhanced when quartz, which intruded through the original rock, is now revealed as a shining white band or line.

BRIAN CHUGG

JOYCE 150



There are fears that Britain could fail to get off the launching pad at the European Space Agency conference, warns David Whitehouse

# The need to put on a spurt in the space race

NEXT week there will be the first meeting of the technical ministers of the European Space Agency (ESA) since 1977. Their decisions will set the direction of European space science for the rest of the century. For Britain, it offers the best chance for more than a decade to revitalise its space effort. But as the minister, Geoffrey Frie, and the British delegation take their seats in that Rome conference hall, there are many who fear that the country is not in the best of health when it comes to the conference and that our poor performance will jeopardise our future prospects in space.

There are several new projects to be ratified at this meeting. The French are proposing a new more powerful version of the Ariane rocket as well as a mini-space shuttle called Hermes. Germany is also proposing a space platform called Columbus. This would be an unmanned or manned series of modules and platforms based on the technology that

placed the European space lab in the space shuttle's cargo bay in late 1983. But most controversial of all will be the discussion about participation in the United States space station project. All these proposals are expected to be ratified.

### Once we had the lead

With this meeting comes the realisation that space science is changing. It has come of age with mature and sophisticated techniques to challenge many new frontiers. We begin to realise that space is important and that there are great economic and social benefits in being up there. Some even hold the belief that we are seeing the falling start of the next industrial revolution that will take place in low-earth orbit. Benefits there will be, but for whom?

The European Space Agency faces a formidable challenge to become the third space community. So far man's venture into space has been dominated by the Americans and the Russians. No one could agree that it is good for humanity as a whole to have membership of the space club so exclusive. After a quarter of a century in space it fails to ESA, with possible Japanese and Australian help to take a more active role.

If ESA is to do this, it has to demand a greater contribution from its member nations so that each contributes the same proportion of its gross national product to space research as does the United States. One nation already does this. France supports its far-sighted space policies by spending five times Britain's sum of £80 million a year.

From these figures it is hard to believe that Britain once had the lead in European space science. But as the Rome meeting will demonstrate, and as the respected journal Nature pointed out the major European response to space has now become continental.

develop a sensible space policy. Long-term financial and scientific plans are made via ad hoc arrangements with the Science and Engineering Research Council and the European Space Agency. Goals and strategies formulated to attain long-term advances have been lacking. And there has been the growing feeling that we need a single organisation to draw together and manage Britain in space.

The need for a British equivalent of NASA has been clear for more than 20 years. The Royal Society suggested it in 1960 and so did a panel set up by Professor Mark Richmond to look at British space science.

We need a British space agency because the British stance on space is unsure. It is Government policy to perform its main civil space activities through ESA. In turn, ESA divides its activities between a basic science programme and an applications programme.

All member states contribute to the first in proportion

to their gross national product. Nations contribute optionally to the second and reap benefits accordingly. The merits of such a division are arguable and the UK response is likewise bisected. Basic science is the responsibility of the Science and Engineering Research Council while responsibility for the larger applications programme is with the Department of Trade and Industry whose aim it is to see that British industry benefits. It is policy to encourage those areas where there may be the greatest commercial benefits. This has resulted in our concentration on spacecraft manufacture at which we are excellent.

We made only a minuscule contribution to Ariane, the European launcher and rival in many ways to the shuttle; someone once said we grudgingly agreed to design the ashtrays. Meanwhile, we now see Ariane beginning to pay off.

This 'get out what you put in' aspect of ESA's applications programme probably

makes sense as it gives control of projects to those who take the risks. This is as it should be. But the basic science situation is less than satisfactory because it is too small for any kind of sensible plan in any one science, though the ESA meeting at the end of the month is expected to increase the budget. In reality the split between basic science and applications is harmful because there is much that does not fall easily into either category.

As well as involvement with ESA, Britain has had some outstanding success in cooperation with NASA particularly in the field of astronomy but at the same time that ESA has been unable to provide a coherent programme of basic science for Europe as a whole, internal support for UK domestic space science has fallen by 75 per cent in 10 years and with it has gone the British lead in European space science.

We need a British space agency to lead from the top and view our country's contri-

bution to the space effort over at least a 15 year timescale, longer than hitherto considered. It needs to be a full-bodied organisation able to evaluate resources, needs and benefits. What would be a disaster would be the setting up of some kind of half-hearted directorate with the job of liaising between industry, universities and the many interested parties.

### The long term view

The situation is serious. We are seeing the blossoming of Earth orientated studies from space that will result in a revolution in our understanding of our planet and the under-funding of the important Hermoncourt satellite ranging project that could transform geoscience — to give but two examples. A point critics sometimes miss is that money spent on space is spent on earth.

It goes into factories and universities providing salaries as people develop

resources, experience and wealth. Space technology represents the apex of our society's technological expertise. It is inconceivable that Britain should not be well represented at the 'high frontier'.

It is an error that our country's involvement in the responsibility of no single body. Other countries realise the need for an expanding space budget as well as a coordinating space body. What is it that they realise that we don't? Space projects take a long time, about 10 years, to come to fruition, and require scientific foresight over a decade or more. We need a space agency to oversee British activity and take the long term view. If we continue our policy of wanting involvement in other people's space projects without wanting to pay very much for it we will really establish our position as also-rans at the ESA Rome meeting.

David Whitehouse is an astronomer at the Mullard Space Science Laboratory of University College, London.

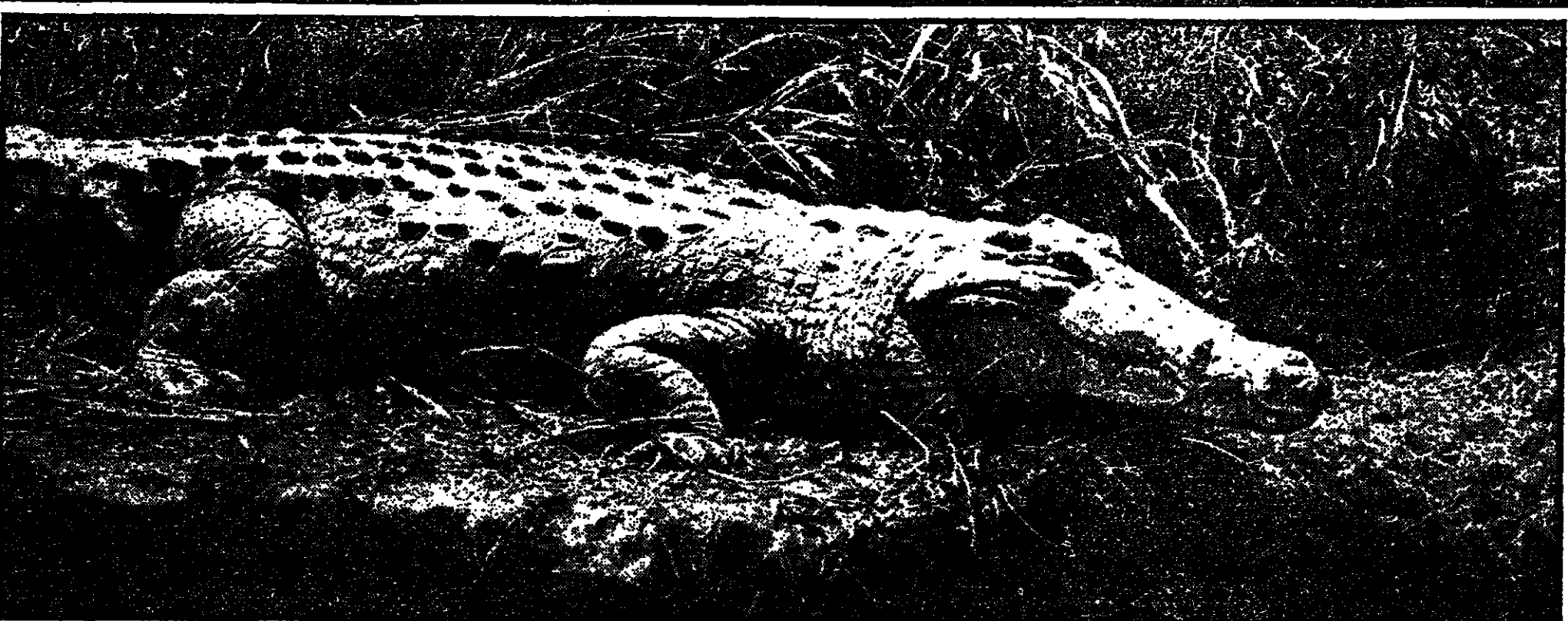
WHEN conservationists berate commercial loggers, cattle ranchers, and others for wrecking tropical forests, they are sometimes short on ideas for alternative ways to derive hard-cash benefits from the same forests. Now there appears to be a breakthrough in Papua New Guinea. In the form of two innovative types of stock raising, the creatures in question are crocodiles and butterflies, unlikely-seeming sources of income for local people.

But experience is demonstrating that there is scope to harvest a sizeable natural bounty from the forest, without disrupting the ecosystems — and with direct benefit to people whose needs should count first (but are often ignored) — the people who live in it.

Crocodiles supply acceptable amounts of a commodity that when derived from cattle, constitutes a regular item of standard agriculture: leather. For sure, the people of Papua New Guinea are not the first to raise 'domesticated crocodiles' — compounds especially established for the purpose: projects in India, Thailand, Zimbabwe and elsewhere have pioneered the techniques.

But local tribes of Papua New Guinea are the first tropical forest people to attempt this novel way of exploiting a top-dollar type of forest wildlife.

Crocodile leather is used for an array of luxury articles, ranging from shoes to luggage to watch straps. Only a few fashion-conscious markets are involved, notably those of Paris, Rome, Frankfurt and Tokyo. Yet so great is demand, that since about 1950 suppliers have been unable to keep up with the appetites of international leather enthusiasts. International crocodile leather has actually declined since a peak in the mid-1960s, when the main markets absorbed more than two million crocodile skins a year. Now, that the trade has declined through lack of demand, rather it has contracted by reason of shrinking supplies. As long as there is plenty of legitimate crocodile leather available, there are plenty of crocodiles who will pay highly for a



SNAP SHOT: A sleeping 20ft crocodile. Picture by Christine Osborne

One way to save a threatened species might be to exploit it by farming. Norman Myers on ranching in Papua New Guinea

## Save-as-you-earn with crocs of gold

Until the late 1960s, both were losing numbers drastically, due to unregulated hunting of the creatures in their forest habitats. Today, the decline has been turned around, and the farming operations are helping wild stocks to build up their numbers again — as there is no longer incentive for local people to poach crocodiles in the wild.

A crocodile that is well cared for reaches a length of one metre in its first year, and becomes ready for harvest by the time it reaches two metres in its third year. Hatchlings have a food conversion rate of about 50 per cent, that is, a crocodile puts on one pound of weight for every two pounds of food consumed. (If cattle, sheep and pigs were to

achieve the same rate of growth, they would have to eat between three and five times as much food as they do.) By the time the crocodile reaches its third year, its conversion rate has fallen to about 30 per cent or less, whereupon it yields a piece of belly leather between 10 inches and 20 inches wide and 3 1/2 feet to 7 1/2 feet long, worth an average of \$150.

Not only does crocodile farming in Papua New Guinea turn wildlife protection into an economic proposition. It supplies a cash income for people who live in parts of the country where they would otherwise find it hard to gain a livelihood: swamplands and marshy zones. More important still

for long-term considerations — and as has been stressed by Dr Noel D. Vietmeyer of the National Research Council in Washington D.C., a scientist who is an ardent proponent of new ways of livestock farming in tropical forests — the strategy enables local people to earn their way by mobilising resources within their native environments. After all, crocodile farming by contrast with conventional stock husbandry, requires no forest clearing, grass planting, fence building and pesticide spraying that are essential, not to say expensive, factors in the raising of cattle and sheep.

A still more imaginative way to exploit natural wildlife resources of tropical forests is being attempted in Papua New Guinea: butterfly farming. In various parts of the country, at least 500 villages are rearing butterflies in captivity, or harvesting them in the wild. Both of these approaches are handled in such a way that they constitute sustainable use of a uniquely valuable resource. The same villagers also seek to exploit beetles and other insects for export to the extent that the government now views all insects as a national resource, and Papua New Guinea has become the only nation in the world to specify insect conservation as a constitutional objective.

There is much mileage in butterflies. The plainest-looking specimen is worth half a dollar, and a run-of-the-mill creature can readily bring \$10. A specimen of a rarer species, such as the mauve swallowtail, sells on international markets for \$50, while a specimen of a brilliantly coloured, and particularly rare, birdwing species can be worth up to \$1,000. Because of their resplendent appearance, butterflies are sold mainly for decorative purposes. Many species are enriched with 'structural' colours, which cause their wings to flash iridescently in the sun as they 'blend' the light they reflect. When these gorgeous specimens are mounted in glass or plastic, they serve to adorn trays, tablecloths and screens, even bar-counter coasters and

## When it's downhill all the way

Peter J Smith on the mechanics of the avalanche

THE popular image of erosion, not entirely dispelled by textbooks, is one of gentle, steady, gradual weathering. Huge mountain ranges are pushed up at an imperceptible rate over tens of millions of years or longer, and the elements immediately begin to wear them down again. As the surface rocks gradually weather into smaller and smaller pieces, streams carry them down to the oceans almost grain by grain, until the mountains exist no more.

But it's not always quite like that, as dwellers in the foothills of the Alps know to their cost. In a visit to the Alps in the 1780s, the Swiss naturalist Horace de Saussure wrote: 'a most extraordinary danger encountered sometimes on that route is one of being surprised by torrents which form suddenly and descend with incredible violence from the height of the mountains.'

And he didn't mean water torrents either but 'a kind of liquid mud mixed with decomposed slate and rock fragments, the impulsive force of this dense paste is incomprehensible; it incorporates rocks, topples the buildings which happen to be in its way, uproots the tallest trees; and upon bursting forth from ravines ravages the fields, covering the soil with a considerable thickness of silt, gravel, and rock fragments.'

dosekiyru of Japan, the allusion of Latin America, the pahrhu of Nepal or the shwa of northern Pakistan, the potential for destruction and death is ever present.

Moreover, the dangers are increasing, not only because more people are getting in the way but because they are also removing natural defences. As populations increase and pressures on land grow, developing countries are removing stabilising vegetation in favour of marginal agriculture while some of the developed countries are expanding forestry and recreational activities to ever higher levels. The result in each case can be greater instability. Debris flows may be natural but they are not adverse to a helping hand.

The trouble is that they don't offer much help in return, and least of all to investigators. The occurrence of debris flows depends so much on the precise configuration of the local geology that it's almost impossible to formulate any but the vaguest rules of behaviour. There has to be debris available, there has to be a gorge down which it can flow, and there has to be a trigger (e.g. a rainstorm or earthquake) to set the process in motion; but as mountains have all three, that's not saying much.

It's certainly not saying enough to provide an ability to predict just when and where debris flows will occur, even without the most accurate danger zones of western Europe and Japan that have been under observation for more than a century. The best that can be done is simply to identify those broad types of geological environment likely to be most susceptible to debris flows and then take what few precautionary measures there are.

that have not been glaciated for millions of years, those from which glaciers have retreated fairly recently and those adjacent to existing glaciers. In other words, practically everywhere is at risk, but for different reasons.

On regions long unglaciated, the elements have played for such a length of time that soil and fragmented rock often extends to considerable depth. In short, near-surface debris is abundant. Where glaciers have recently retreated they will have deposited their load of accumulated rocks in haphazard patterns and debris will again be freely available. But if the glacier remains, the hazard is, if anything, even greater, for the burst of water from a hitherto ice-dammed or rock-dammed glacial lake is just the sort of trigger needed to set a debris flow in motion. That's what happened at Huairaz.

A fourth type of danger zone is the lower reaches of a volcanic edifice which, even without the volcano itself in dominant or extinct, provides a ready-made supply of rubble and ash all too prone to slide under suitably wet conditions. Finally, there is one environment in which the problem arises less from debris than from the bedrock itself. Certain types of fine sedimentary and metamorphic basement rocks on steep slopes are only too ready to sag and slide catastrophically when they become saturated enough.

Fortunately, debris flows, unlike earthquakes and volcanic explosions, can often be prevented or have their worst effects mitigated, albeit at some expense and at the cost of eternal vigilance. Where glaciers are present, for example, an obvious aim would be to prevent the build-up of glacial lakes in the first place either by creating artificial drainage channels or by making sure that natural ones never get clogged.

Where the trigger is less conspicuous or likely to be sudden and unpredictable (e.g. a violent rainstorm) the only solution, short of moving away, is to build retaining walls, check dams, and diversion structures. They must be carefully designed by qualified engineering geologists, however, for errors by amateurs may simply accentuate the danger.

Some long-term defences of this type have been remarkably successful, perhaps most notably those in the southern Alps of France where actual and threatened debris flows in the late 19th century all but depopulated many of the valleys. Visitors to Austria will no doubt also be familiar with precautionary measures such as those at Mafrei, where a pair of parallel masonry and concrete walls four metres high form a building-free 'debris channel' intended to guide debris flows safely through the town.

There is no guarantee that such defences will always work, of course, for a freakishly large flow beyond their design limit is ever a possibility. And in some of the poorer parts of the world such elaborate precautions just do not exist, because of the expense, the absence of experts or simply ignorance of what is needed and what can be done.

But then the poorer countries have no monopoly on ignorance when it comes to appreciating the need for engineering geologists. There was less excuse for what happened to the man-made pile at Aberfan in the 1960s than there was for building La Paz, Bolivia, beneath more natural flow-prone slopes.



A landslide which destroyed a village in Pavia, Italy

## Malcolm Smith tells the bald truth

### Rat's whiskers

IF you're bald or worried about hair loss, look kindly on rats. Studies using rat whiskers may one day yield a successful technique for human hair replacement, because biologists Colin Jahoda, Kenneth Horne and Roy Oliver, at the University of Dundee, have found a way of stimulating hair to grow from unproductive follicles in a rat's snout.

It wasn't until the 1970s that another biologist at the same university discovered that a special type of skin cell — a dermal papilla — which projects into the base of the hair follicle deep inside the skin, controls the production of the hair inside it. The papilla is essential for the initiation and maintenance of hair growth. What the current research has done is to remove these special cells, grow them in tissue cultures and return them to hair follicles where they still retain their ability to stimulate hair growth.

Trials used rat hair follicles which had been partly cut away, removing the hair, the dermal papilla and much of the follicle itself. When tissue-cultured papillae were introduced to these hairless, damaged follicles, more than half of them sprouted full-blown whiskers again. Not only this but the hair structure and the cells comprising the new hair follicle all functioned perfectly.

Only a few years ago, cells from the hair follicles themselves were first cultured in the laboratory. Now that the dermal papillae can also be cultured, researchers can for the first time investigate how the papillae cells induce the follicle cells to produce hair in the first place. Hormones such as testosterone influence the process but no-one knows how; the common and genetically determined pattern



Bald answers?

It may be some years off, but the prospect of culturing human dermal papillae cells and then incorporating them either into follicles that have ceased to produce hair, or, more likely, into skin to stimulate the formation of new follicles with hair, is now a real possibility. Bald men craving to be hairy again may then have a reliable — but undoubtedly expensive — solution to their problem.



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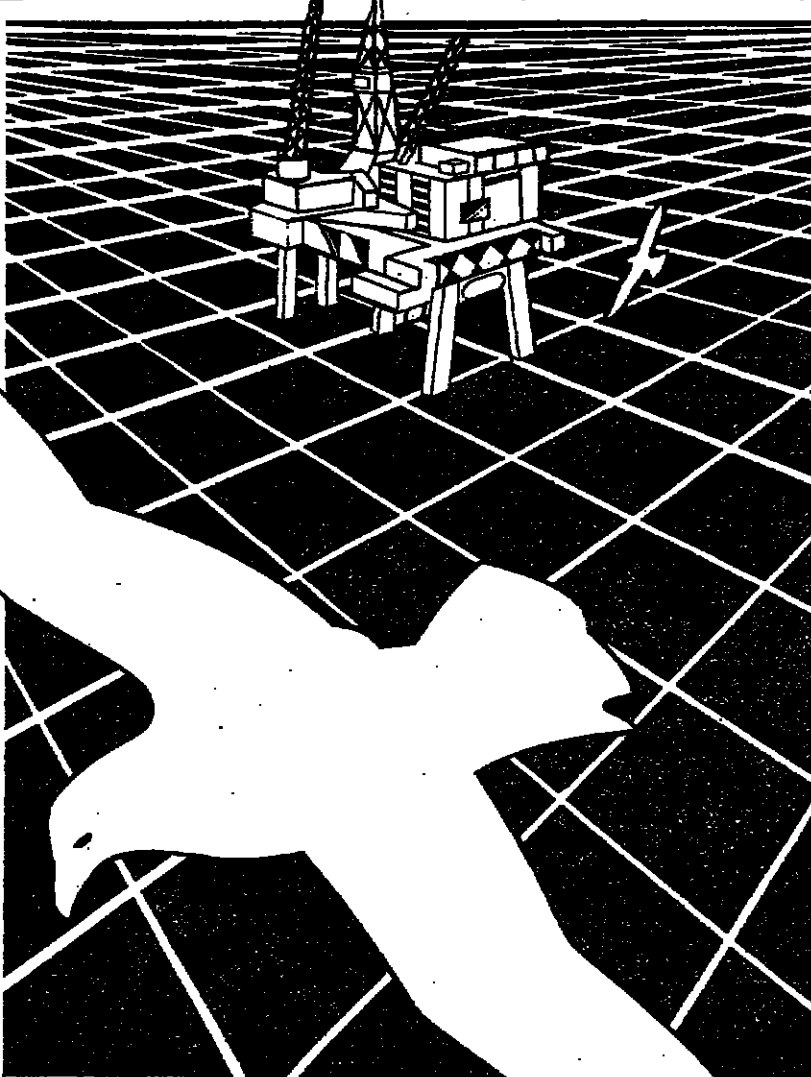
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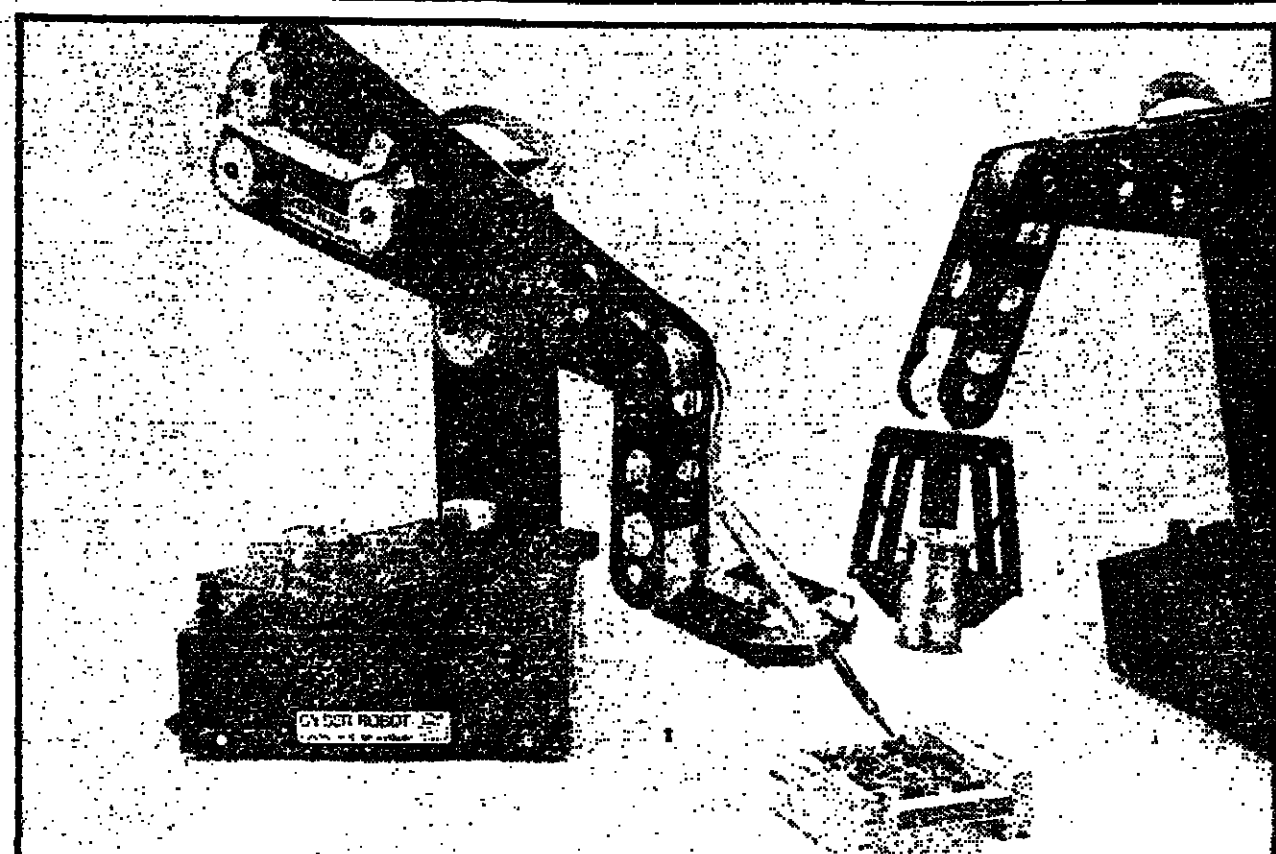
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## NEW GENERATION NORTH SEA PROJECTS



## FUTURES MICRO GUARDIAN

Robot vision: slow progress



Teaching a robot to see has been one of the trickiest feats of all. Bob Beattie explains the problems and the developments

## How to see through a robot

IN the early days of Artificial Intelligence during the late 1950s, it was thought that the problem of programming a robot to see using a television camera wouldn't be too difficult — maybe it would take five years, ten at the outside. Even in a field given to optimistic predictions, this turned out to be one of the most outrageous. However, at last it seems that progress is being made on outlining the basic principles of general-purpose computer vision systems, but it's clear we'll not be able to bolt them on to our industrial robots for another decade or two.

This state of affairs presents a problem to roboticists because the outstanding difficulty in applying automation to a wider range of tasks lies in giving the robot controller some means of acquiring information about its environment. The paint-spraying robot which gives a nice paint job when something goes wrong with its workpiece delivery system is just one example of how a lack of sensory data prevents a robot from being able to respond intelligently to unexpected events or to variations in its task.

Driven by this need for effective sensory systems but appreciating the difficulty of general-purpose solutions, researchers in robot vision have turned their attention to

building systems which perform usefully in some limited domain. On this basis most vision system work can be classified as theory-oriented or applications-oriented depending on whether the goal is a general-purpose system or one designed to perform a certain limited range of tasks. Currently, only the applications-oriented systems are suitable for use in industry.

Industrial vision systems usually go through a two-stage cycle. In the first, they are taught something about the task to be performed in the second, working, stage. Teaching usually consists of showing the system examples of objects to be recognised later, or examples of acceptable and unacceptable objects if the system is to be used for inspection.

The simplest type of applications-oriented systems are the binary or silhouette vision systems, and these have been commercially available for several years. They depend on the whole object to be recognised being darker or brighter than the background.

In the teach phase, various parameters of each of the objects to be recognised, such as area, ratio of perimeter to area, etc. are stored.

In the working phase, the same parameters are extracted from the unknown

object in the scene and compared with those previously stored. The best match enables the unknown object to be recognised, and by performing calculations on its parameters its position and orientation can be computed.

As long as the object silhouette is obtained accurately, binary vision systems are fast and cheap. Unfortunately they suffer from two severe problems. Most inspection and recognition tasks involve taking internal detail of the object into account. This is clearly not possible when the system is based on silhouettes. A more practical problem is the sensitivity of binary vision systems to changes in the ambient light.

One, possibly apocryphal, story concerns a research team in an industrial company who were building a binary vision system. After weeks of slaving over hot visual display units, they finally got the system working, so they invited the managing director for a demonstration. As soon as he walked into the lab the system failed.

To make matters more exasperating, the system started working again as soon as he left. Some time later the team discovered that their system couldn't handle the extra light reflected onto the workstation by the director's white shirt.

Reliability problems have led to work on producing more robust systems. One approach is to use many intensively values, instead of just two as in the binary case. Such systems have a first processing stage which involves finding lines in the image, since these usually correspond to external and internal edges of the viewed objects. As with the binary system a pattern of lines is stored for each different object during the teaching phase, and used as a basis for recognition or inspection during the working phase.

While more widely applicable and robust than binary vision systems, these so-called greyscale systems suffer from the fact that it is very difficult to recover any of the three-dimensional properties of an object from a single image. In effect, these systems recognise views of objects rather than objects themselves. This severely limits the range of jobs they can do.

Consequently, much current research is concerned with obtaining three dimensional object information directly. The most popular technique is to use some kind of active triangulation ranging. For instance, by projecting a stripe of light onto the scene and finding it in the corresponding image, which is easy because it should be brighter than anything else,

the shape of the object surface can be worked out from the shape of the light stripe in the image. One important application for which these systems have been found to be particularly useful is continuous seam welding. The welding head, which has a small solid-state camera and a laser-based stripe generator built in, is attached to a robot arm. By examining the stripe position in the image, the position of the parts being welded can be determined and appropriate action taken by the system controller to produce an optimal weld.

British research in vision is now being encouraged by the Alvey Directorate, set up by the Government to coordinate research and development in Advanced Information Technology. To balance the need for immediate advances leading to saleable products with the need more fundamental research, both applications-orientated and theory-orientated vision is being supported. Driven by such a strategy, this field of work should lead to practically useful systems in the short term, and eventually to a substantially increased understanding of how the human visual system works.

R. J. Beattie lectures in the department of electrical and electronic engineering at Napier College, Edinburgh.

Jack Schofield takes chip architecture to bits

## When the chips are down

WHEN you turn on a micro, it is impossible to tell what chip is at its heart. Is the cpu (central processing unit) a MOS6502, say, or a Zilog Z80, Intel 8088 or Motorola 68000? And if you can't tell there any reason to care?

Of course there is. If you sit in the driver's seat of a car and turn on the ignition, it may be impossible to tell what kind of engine is under the bonnet. However, once you have put the car in gear and driven for an hour or two, you will certainly appreciate the difference between a two-cylinder 500cc engine, a 2-litre job or something like a V12 racing engine.

Similar differences exist between the Sinclair Spectrum (battery-assisted pedal tricycle), IBM PC (Escort) and Acorn 32016 (Porsche).

Understanding the power of a chip is hard, like understanding an internal combustion engine. With a car, a rough guide is given by counting the number of cylinders, the cubic capacity of the engine (cc) and so on. With a microchip, similar indicators are the number of bits of information it can process at once, its capacity — the amount of memory it can use — and its clock speed or cycle time in megahertz (MHz).

Thus we talk about 8-bit, 16-bit and 32-bit chips that can address 64K or 1 megabyte (Mbyte) or 16Mbytes of memory, and run at 2 or 4.77 or 12MHz. The figures give some idea of the potential power.

Of course, as with car engines, the chips that drive microcomputers may perform better or worse than expected. Also, the performance depends on the load factor. An 8-bit chip may run very quickly if it is doing something simple like word processing, while a powerful 32-bit chip is reduced to a crawl by complex high-resolution graphics.

These things are often indicated in the chip's name. The Intel 4004, the first-ever microprocessor, and National Semiconductor's 32016 are examples.

Intel's 8004 and 8008 were primitive chips designed for use in programmable calculators. However, they were soon followed by the first true microcomputer chip, the Intel 8080A. This was used in the world's first best-selling micro, the Altair, which was so successful that its system of construction was adopted by much of the rest of the industry. As the S-100 bus it is still in widespread use today.

The disc-operating system written for the 8080A was called CP/M, and again, this is still an industry standard 10 years later.

Now the 8088A had an 8-bit internal architecture, which meant it could process 8-bits or one byte of data at a time. It had an 8-bit data bus, which meant it could fetch one byte of data at a time. It had a 16-bit address bus, which meant it could address two to the power of 16, or 65,535 bytes of memory in common parlance, that's 64K. Finally, it ran at 2MHz.

Actually the 8088A was a real mess, in hardware terms, and people saw immediately how they could improve on it. One group left Intel to found Zilog, and in 1977 produced the Z-80 chip. This was a huge success, and is still used in the Sinclair Spectrum, Amstrad, Enterprise, Tatung Einstein, and many other micros.

## Alphanumeric characters

In 1977 the Z-80's major rival was the MOS6502, which is used in the Acorn BBC and Electron, Atari 800XL, 65XE and 130XE, Apple IIe and IIC, Commodore 16, 64, 128 and Plus/4, Oric Atmos and other micros.

The Z-80's success was partly due to the fact that it was written to run the same programs as the original 8080A, including CP/M. The 6502's major disadvantage has always been its lack of a standard operating system, and the inability to run CP/M.

But both the Z-80 and 6502 are 8-bit chips which can directly address only 64K of memory. Obviously it would be better to process more than 8-bits of data at a time, and to be able to utilise more memory, so 16-bit chips were soon on the way. The first success was the Intel 8088, used in the IBM PC and most of its emulators.

The Intel 8088 has a 16-bit internal design, and it can address 1Mbyte of memory. However, it still has an 8-bit data bus, which means it must fetch data 8 bits at a time. Obviously this slows it down a lot. However, when the IBM PC came out at the end of 1981, there were few 16-bit support chips available, while 8-bit ones were plentiful and cheap. It thus made sense to go for economy rather than optimum performance.

Nowadays most serious micros use the Intel 8086 chip instead. This has the same internal construction, so it can run the same programs, but it has a proper 16-bit data

bus. Examples are the ACT Apricot and Olivetti M-24.

Some newer micros use even more advanced versions of this same chip. For example, Research Machines' brilliant new Nimbus uses the 80188, and IBM's own advanced AT model uses the 80286. Both can run 8086 code.

The main rival to the 8086 family is the powerful Motorola 68000. This has a 32-bit internal architecture, and can address 16Mbytes of memory. It is used mainly in multi-user, multi-tasking supermicros such as the IMP-88, Stride, TDI Pinnacle, Torch, WICAT and similar models. Apple's Macintosh and "Fat Mac", and Atari's 130ST and 520ST (both with 128K and 512K of RAM respectively) also use 68000s.

A cut-down version called the 68008 is used in the Sinclair QL. This has the full 68000 internal architecture, but only an 8-bit data path. This enables cheap support chips to be used. However, the fact that the 32-bit chip has to fetch data only 8-bits at a time undoubtedly slows its performance.

An advanced version of the chip, the 68020, will soon be available. This has a 32-bit data bus, and it can address an amazing 4 gigabytes (thousand million bytes) of memory. Where the Z-80 runs at 4.77MHz, the 68020 can run at up to 16.67MHz, and so perform many more operations per second — around 2.5 million instructions (mips), in fact!

A 68020-based micro will be able to provide something like 97 per cent of the power of a mainframe computer at the better part of the cost. And you could have one on your desk within the next two or three years.

Of course for most purposes an 8-bit micro is perfectly adequate. When word processing, for example, you are moving around 7-bit numbers (just stand for alphanumeric characters). There's no obvious advantage in using a 32-bit architecture to do that.

Also, the superior chip's advantages may not be fully exploited by the software or hardware. For example, the 80286 in the IBM PCAT may address masses of RAM, but (1) there's only room for 3Mbytes in the box and (2) the operating system can only use 640K of it anyway.

However, today's new chips certainly have the potential to offer far more power, and it helps if you understand why. It's the only way not to get taken in by the advertising.

## LETTERS:

## The Sellafield risk assessment

Sir, — Dr Jones, (Futures, December 27, Letters, January 10), raises a number of points, about the evidence prepared by the National Radiological Protection Board for the Black Advisory Group, which need some clarification.

In the board's main study, average radiation doses to young persons in the population were calculated for natural background, by inhalation, nuclear weapons fallout, and the operations at the Sellafield nuclear fuel reprocessing plant.

The doses from the plant's operations arise from intake of radionuclides by inhalation and ingestion as well as from external radiation. We calculated that these doses to the bone marrow of young persons was on average about 10 per cent of the total dose.

We were aware that certain individuals would receive higher doses. We therefore examined how a wide range of factors could influence doses to individual children.

Many of the factors would have been expected to influence doses only to a few children, and during a short period. We considered only the dose resulting from the discharge; those from all other sources would have been much the same as for others in the population.

Dr Jones quotes us as using a "beach residence time" of 25 hours per year. He ignores the fact that we used this only for the average one-year-old, with values for 10 per cent of the population he proposes for 10-year-olds.

Inadvertent ingestion of sand was related to beach occupancy. A range of 75 to 500 hours per year was used for extreme cases. The analysis showed that these increases over the average time spent on the beach raised the total dose from the discharge by about 10 per cent. The total dose from all sources of radiation would therefore be increased by about 1 per cent.

In the extreme case of children exhibiting pica and eating large amounts of silt not sand, the dose to individuals from the discharge would be significantly increased, possibly by up to a factor of 100 above average. This factor relates to the total from the discharge, not from all sources.

However, the amounts of silt that would need to be swallowed to give this increase in dose are large (200 grammes per day for half the year); the material is not widespread on the Sellafield beach; and the condition would not occur throughout life.

For the child with such a high intake of silt for a few years, the total radiation dose to age 20, from all sources,



might be increased by a factor of two or three. In fact, the extreme case of pica envisaged for the calculation would be considered a medical condition and would require treatment. It would certainly apply only to a few children.

Because of this, and because there is little silt on the beach near Seascale, where children play, intakes of silt were not included in the calculations for the average child.

In radiological protection it is considered prudent to assume a linear, no-threshold relationship between radiation dose and risk for "high LET radiation," such as alpha particles, and this may slightly overestimate the risk for "low LET radiation," such as gamma rays.

This NRPB approach reflects the international consensus. However, when the board's research has shown that the risk is greater than the consensus indicates, it has published this research and advised Government bodies accordingly.

The board was set up by Parliament basically to carry out research and to provide advice. It is not a regulatory body. The controlling departments for discharges from Sellafield are the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, acting jointly. In Dr Jones's article this brief statement is notably absent.

In its work for the Black Advisory Group, the NRPB considered the leukaemia risk to the foetus as a separate case, and concluded that it was about six times the adult value assumed by the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

There is no evidence to support the statement that alpha emitters such as plutonium

are bone-seeking elements selectively concentrated in foetal tissue during early pregnancy. In general, the radiation dose to the bone marrow comes mainly from naturally occurring radioactive bone-seekers.

The Black Report includes a table summarising the doses from man-made and artificial sources to the bone marrow of children living in Seascale; by far the greatest radiation dose comes from nature.

The board's assessment is based on published scientific documentation. If the observed leukaemia incidence were due to Sellafield discharges, our assessment would have to be 400 times wrong. The claim that this is the case is not substantiated. And if radiation had been the cause of the leukaemias at Seascale, the incidence of leukaemia throughout the country would be far greater. Yours sincerely, (Dr) E. B. Clarke, National Radiological Protection Board, Chilton Didcot, Oxon.

## Must do better

Sir, — Reading New Tricks From The Old Dogs (Futures, Jan. 3), it occurred to me that a logical paradox shows, if nothing else, that the theory of morphic resonance cannot be tested in the manner suggested.

The theory states that the more an event takes place the easier it is for such an event to take place. This being so, we would expect that the more we test the theory itself, the more likely we are to get favourable results. But this would be the case irrespective of the results of the individual tests. Thus, we can conceive of a situation where the individual tests show negative

results but where the overall result is positive — clearly a contradiction.

The unsatisfactory American test leads to another difficulty. The poor result of this test is explained by the auxiliary hypothesis of the presence of a negating influence, such as time zones. But if the theory is correct then we can expect, with more American tests, not only an increased level of success, but also, an increased level of negating influence on the tests, thus preventing a favourable result. It seems that the tests, as presently conceived, cannot be successful if the theory is itself successful.

It is probable that no theory can be successfully verified or falsified but morphic resonance, in its present form, seems to be expressly stated to avoid both.

Jean Goodwin, History of Ideas, Kingston Polytechnic.

## Brains test

Sir, — Martin Ross (Futures, January 10) asks whether machines can improve themselves, and whether even the human brain can do so.

The human brain does, in at least one sense, improve itself. This property has been described as that of self-structuring, and it seems to be one of the necessary characteristics of systems which discover new meanings and expand on their own. The discovery process in humans has been given various names — insight learning, experiential learning, and creativity being among them.

Not only does the human brain "improve itself," but it creates the world in which it finds itself. I think it was Whitehead who pointed out the achievements in the 19th century arising from the human invention of the invention process.

Social systems (organisations, cultures etc) have the potential for self-structuring, thereby "improving" themselves. As for machines, I can anticipate a juicy debate beginning "it all depends what you mean by improving." Some of the issues raised have kept philosophers happy — or at least occupied — for a long time. My own touchstone is to beware of those who talk with absolute certainty on such matters.

Martin Ross, like the rest of us, should keep asking such questions and trying to find more satisfactory answers. For that is as good a demonstration as I can think of, of the self-structuring process.

Dr Tudor Richards, Manchester Business School

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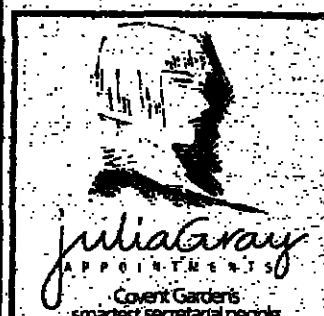
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MBS TechniRent, a specialist division of the established Micro Business Systems Group, is the leading rental company meeting the demand for a wide range of highly specialised electronic equipment. Current product knowledge combined with high technical awareness of this competitive market are essential to generate new leads and support existing client base. Aged 21-35. ONC/HNC in electrical/electronics. Sales experience is a must. Communication skills are vital. Send full cv to Frances Waterworth, PER, 20 The Butts Centre, Reading RG1 7QB. Tel: (0734) 595666.

### Marketing Executive

£13,569 - £14,043 Sunderland, Tyne & Wear

Sunderland Polytechnic in Washington: Micro Technology Centre; Open Tech Practical Training Facility. Sunderland Polytechnic in collaboration with Washington Development Corporation has established a Micro Technology Centre at Armstrong House, Washington. The Centre provides for the interests of industry, commerce and individuals in the areas of microprocessor and microcomputer technology. An opportunity exists at the Micro Technology Centre for a Marketing Executive to promote the activities of the Open Tech Practical Training Facility. The successful candidate will be at least 30 years of age and should preferably have marketing experience in the field of training for micro computing and micro electronics. The purpose will be to increase awareness of the Centre and its facilities to likely candidates, both those supported by industrial and commercial companies as well as those who are self-motivated. A knowledge of industry and commerce in the local area (Tyne and Wear) would be an advantage. Recent experience in training at technician and supervisory management levels would also help. The initial salary, which is pensionable, is at the rate of £13,569 per annum rising to £14,043. An application form and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Sunderland Polytechnic, Langham Tower, Ryhope Road, Sunderland S12 7EG or telephone (0783) 76231 Ext. 11.

SUNDERLAND POLYTECHNIC

### Management/Software Consultant

£11,000-£13,000 Watford, Herts

Expanding management/software consultancy seeks Consultant aged 28+ with indepth knowledge of management systems and software to further develop applications of unique systems product for commercial and engineering functions in manufacturing, plus admin and marketing brief. Exceptional prospects. Help with relocation. Send full cv to Linda Blesseale, PER, 56-62 Park Street, Luton LU1 3JB.

### NC Programmer

Negotiable salary Kingston, Surrey

With British Aerospace Hawk and Harrier aircraft earning high respect worldwide, the company is increasing its level of manufacturing and needs a further NC Programmer experienced in writing process instructions for the manufacture of machined components on both conventional and NC machines. Training provided for candidates with ANVIL & AP7140 programming experience. Competitive salary, major benefits. Send full cv to Therina Johnston, PER, 12A Commercial Way, Woking, Surrey GU21 1HG.

### DP Manager

£16,500 + car Wimbledon

Exceptional opportunity for ambitious graduate-calibre DP professional to control small team for international marketing organisation (parent company world leader in distilled spirits). With DP function at key stage development, three-fold brief includes: setting up of IBM PC micro network linked to remote Honeywell DPST\* co-ordination of migration of complex budget system from service bureau\* implementation of marketing databases. Familiarity with networking, FCS software, budgetary control, FX and micro mainframe interface is essential. Send full cv, including current salary details, to: Robert Little, PER Management Selection Division, 12A Commercial Way, Woking, Surrey GU21 1HG.

### Design Engineers

£12,000 - £15,000 North Devon

Coutant Electronics Ltd, based in Ilfracombe, North Devon, celebrates its 25th anniversary in a period of expansion led by state-of-the-art designs, and an efficient marketing and production organisation. To support their increased activity, maintain their designs, and look to the future, they need to increase their development staff. The company is seeking Design Engineers with experience in switched mode power supplies or other electronics fields. Pleasantly situated in North Devon, salaries are in the range £12,000 - £15,000, an excellent benefits package, and generous relocation assistance where appropriate will be available to the successful candidate. Send full cv to Mike Trembath, PER, 1st Floor, Cobourg House, Mayflower Street, Plymouth PL1 1SG.

### Senior Analyst/Programmer

£11,500 Mid-Glamorgan

The outright purchase of a previous joint-venture TV manufacturing facility is enabling Hitachi Consumer Products (UK) to develop a more dynamic approach to the sophisticated needs of European consumer electronics markets. Immediate major investments at their Hirwaun site feature the appointment of a skilled Senior Analyst, who will have direct involvement from Day One in systems analysis, design, programming and the implementation of advanced admin and financial systems (currently bureau-run) for the new operation. An in-house mini is being selected. Priority task: financial ledger packages; your cv must offer evidence of a similar role. Age: immaterial. Attractive package. Assistance with relocation. Contact Wyn Jones, PER Swansea, on (0792) 43481.

### International Career Opportunity

Newbury based European Headquarters

An excellent opportunity for an ambitious person to consult with the management of Europe's leading industrial companies. During four to eight week projects you will devise, recommend and implement solutions to industrial packaging and material handling problems and may develop packaging technology. Signode, the world's leader in strapping systems, requires a young person aged 24-28 to fill a position created by continuous expansion. Advancement within the European group or parent company depends on your management potential. We offer training in various European countries, salary according to experience, bonus, company car, expenses and benefits associated with a multinational organisation. If you are willing to travel extensively, are single, market-orientated but have a technical aptitude, enjoy meeting and working with people and are fluent in two of the following - French, German or Italian (additional languages are an asset) - Send cv and photograph to Mr C Hawkins, Signode Europa GmbH, Ringway House, Kelvin Road, Newbury, Berks RG13 2BD.

## Professional & Executive Recruitment

### Communications Engineer

To £15,000 + benefits Birmingham

Birmingham University requires a Communications Engineer to manage its extensive PABX system in conjunction with BT and to plan an integrated exchange network to take its place integrating data and speech communication systems. Aged 30+, qualified to degree level or equivalent and with at least three years' relevant experience in a large organisation, he/she will require managerial ability and technical familiarity with modern communication systems. Salary will be up to £15K plus benefits. Please send a full cv naming three referees to: Mr R A Palmer, Sre Assistant Secretary, University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

### Technical Sales Engineer

£13-£15,000 + incentives + car Berks based

DDC, a subsidiary of ILC Data Device Corporation, sells high technology hybrid micro circuits. Products are concerned with data conversion including MIL - STD - 1553 systems, and linear and synchro converters. The job involves servicing existing accounts, conducting technical discussions, and the further development of new accounts. Applicants should preferably be electronics/sales engineers and educated to HNC standard with experience of analogue and/or digital systems. Aged 25/35 you must be accustomed to using your own initiative and possess good communicative skills. This is an opportunity to join a dynamic team in this small, expanding company. We offer a negotiable salary, an incentive scheme, a company car and relocation assistance where appropriate. Please send cv to Mr B Desch, UK Manager, DDC(United Kingdom) Ltd, 128 High Street, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0DL.

### Development Chemist

Attractive negotiable salary Essex

Coated Specialties Ltd, based at Basildon in Essex, is a company specialising in the adhesive coating and laminating of flexible materials for a wide range of applications, including the educational, photographic and printing industries. The post of Development Chemist has now arisen. Reporting direct to the Managing Director, you will have responsibility for the development of new products and processes, as well as existing product improvement. You will be working largely on your own initiative, with pre-determined guidelines, and will have full laboratory resources at your disposal. Candidates should be qualified Chemists, preferably experienced in adhesive-coated flexible materials, or alternatively an Adhesive Chemist familiar with resins and polymers as related to the adhesive manufacturing industry. Likely age range is 35-50. This is a challenging post, which will attract a negotiable salary appropriate to your experience and background. Coated Specialties is part of the Bunt Group of companies and this post attracts the benefits associated with a large group, including company pension scheme (carrying good life insurance). Please send full cv to Mrs K Boucher, Coated Specialties Ltd, Chester Hall Lane, Basildon, Essex.

### Ceramist

Negotiable salary Scotland

Established company wishes to add Ceramist to technical support team for involvement in R + D and design of sophisticated ceramic products and monitoring of production techniques and processes. Qualifications: at least higher diploma level in ceramics, industrial experience in R + D or design an advantage. Newly qualified Ceramists considered. Negotiable package including relocation expenses, excellent career development opportunities. Contact Gordon Munro, PER Glasgow, on (041) 333 9655.

### Sales Admin Manager

£11,000 + bonus Berkshire

Quick thinking under pressure, combined with planning and management skills are essential for young fast-moving sales admin manager to join our company, Hasbro Industries (UK) Ltd. Send full cv to Frances Waterworth, PER, 20 The Butts Centre, Reading RG1 7QB. Tel: (0734) 595666.

### Opportunities in Oxon

Hexland Ltd design, manufacture and develop a wide range of accessories for electron microscopes. Selling mainly to company research divisions and university research groups, the company in five years has reported a phenomenal growth rate.

### Sales Manager

Five figure salary

Responsible for network of UK and overseas agents. Proven sales ability and technical background essential. Experience in cryogenics/vacuum technology/electron optics high value sales necessary.

### Technical Sales Co-ordinator

Attractive negotiable salary

Required to set up and run a smooth operations system. Highly technical background and organised approach essential to co-ordinate the passage of orders from initial receipt to shipping.

### Project Manager

To £15,000

Responsible for projects from design stage. Overseas mechanical/vacuum test engineers and design team. Four/five years' experience in disciplines outlined above or in physics, semi-conductors or electron microscopy. Ph D in physics ideal.

### Technical Design Engineer

Attractive negotiable salary

To work with development group preparing designs for high precision work. Five years' similar experience and degree/HNC in mechanical engineering ideal.

Excellent package available with all positions. Send full cv today to Neasa Kelly, PER, 20 The Butts Centre, Reading RG1 7QB.

### Technical Manager

Microwave Products

Excellent package Devon/Cornwall

Dynamic young company with semi-monopolistic product range well established in European markets offers Director Designate appointment to highly motivated, professional Electronics Engineer with upper frequency experience: a prime mover in imminent expansion and acquisition programme in the USA. Exceptional, highly negotiable package. Send full cv, stating salary requirements, to Cathy Homer, PER, Victoria House, Ormskirk Road, Preston PR1 2DX. Tel: (0772) 59743.

### Electrical/Electronic Systems Engineer

£9,500 Hartlepool

Based in Hartlepool, British Steel have the most modern welded pipe mill in Europe using the latest process control techniques to produce high quality pipe from 7 1/4" to 20" in diameter. To continue the development of the process in order to maintain market leadership, they wish to appoint an Electrical/Electronic Systems Engineer whose role will be to provide technical back-up to the maintenance team. The job offers challenging and interesting work with the satisfaction of progressing projects from concept to commissioning. Applicants should have a sound knowledge of thyristor drives, analogue and digital electronics, programmable controllers and microprocessors. Qualified to HNC or equivalent level you will need to be creative, energetic and self-motivated. Starting salary will be £9,500 with additional payment for any overtime. The attractive benefits include a superannuation scheme and attractive relocation assistance if appropriate. There is real scope for further advancement through a comprehensive management development scheme. Send full cv to Harry Alker, PER, Northampton House, 177 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1LA.

### Systems Analyst

Five figure salary Nottinghamshire

An excellent opportunity has arisen for an experienced Systems Analyst to join a well established and highly successful manufacturing company currently employing about 1,000 people. Reporting to the DP/Systems Manager, your main responsibility will be to work in conjunction with user departments to study, develop, program, test and implement new computer systems. Specifically, you will investigate existing clerical or mechanical methods and develop new systems to provide management information. In addition you will investigate problems and prepare feasibility reports for management recommending alternative cost effective solutions. The present installation is a mainframe ICL 2950. Applicants will have worked in a manufacturing environment and should essentially have a sound working knowledge of mainframe computers, preferably on ICL. Experience of O & M techniques would be advantageous but not essential. An attractive five figure salary will be offered with the prospect of advancement to a senior post. Additional benefits will include contributory pension, life assurance cover and a generous relocation package. Send full cv to Brett Hanson, PER, Lambert House East, Clarendon Street, Nottingham NG1 5NS.

### Technical Manager

Microwave Products

Excellent package Devon/Cornwall

Dynamic young company with semi-monopolistic product range well established in European markets offers Director Designate appointment to highly motivated, professional Electronics Engineer with upper frequency experience: a prime mover in imminent expansion and acquisition programme in the USA. Exceptional, highly negotiable package. Send full cv, stating salary requirements, to Cathy Homer, PER, Victoria House, Ormskirk Road, Preston PR1 2DX. Tel: (0772) 59743.

### Technical Chemist

Competitive salary Colne, Lancs

Very successful manufacturing company renowned for high quality products seeks talented, well qualified, young Technical Chemist with background in moulding, knowledge of adhesives and resins and experience of environmental testing. Knowledge of foams, including polyurethanes and styrenes, an advantage. Very attractive package and genuine prospects for further professional growth. Send full cv, stating salary requirements, to Cathy Homer, PER, Victoria House, Ormskirk Road, Preston PR1 2DX. Tel: (0772) 59743.

PER Professional & Executive Recruitment



Ferranti Computer Systems Ltd.

# Patrolling the oceans with Software at sea

Each minute of the day, each day of the year, there are Ferranti ship control systems maintaining a constant vigilance over the oceans of the world.

Ready to respond swiftly and efficiently to any untoward event, be it a military or navigational threat.

This is all made possible by Ferranti's state-of-the-art real-time software.

Our advanced naval systems are used for a diversity of applications which enable highly trained service personnel to operate at optimum efficiency in data gathering, interpretation, analysis, weapon allocation and control.

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Action Information Systems Software Project Management

In today's world, the continuous development of software at sea is a must. Ferranti's team of software engineers are constantly engaged in designing for new applications, technologies and methodologies.

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Fire Control Systems - Radar Data Processing, Process Control - Sonar Data Processing, Simulators/Trainers - Design Languages, Fault Tolerant Systems - Ada, Software Reliability - Expert Systems, MASCOT - Data Highways - CORAL, Software Quality.

As you would expect from an internationally successful company, the rewards packages will be very competitive. They include, where appropriate, comprehensive relocation to the Bracknell, Fareham or Weymouth areas.

So, if you're a software specialist keen to exploit the frontiers of software at sea, make sure you speak to Ferranti first.

Call our Recruitment Section on Bracknell 483232, Ext. 3471.

Or write with details to: Recruitment Section, Ferranti Computer Systems Ltd., Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1RA. Please quote reference B/NSD/G

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## SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

It offers the opportunity to study modern mathematical methods of system specification and design, techniques of program development and validation, and the application of these methods to industrially relevant projects, including hardware and microprocessor applications.

Financial support for candidates is available from SERC and from industrial bursaries provided by major UK companies including BP, GEC, and ICL.

For more information about the course, the work of the group, or the bursaries, write to: Professor C. A. R. Hoare, F.R.S., Oxford University Programming Research Group, 9-11 Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3QD.

## LEGAL ADVISER NEWLY QUALIFIED SOLICITOR

A long-established, successful, expanding, international, medium-sized English public company in an attractive part of S.E. England, seeks a young Solicitor to join the legal team, reporting to the Legal Director (a Solicitor).

The main emphasis will be on litigation but there will be general commercial practice in the law affecting contracts, company acquisitions, consumer protection, employment and conveyancing.

Initially the role will be in the UK only, but some overseas involvement is possible in due course. Terms will include a good salary, company car, pension, share participation scheme, etc. We seek a strictly non-"ivory tower" person who will relate easily with the commercial managers concerned, and will wish to develop an understanding of the company's activities as well as all-round experience in commercial legal practice.

C.V. please (which will be treated in absolute confidence) addressed to Legal Director, Felcourt, near East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 2JY.

Project Leaders · Software Designers · Software Support

## INTERNATIONAL SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

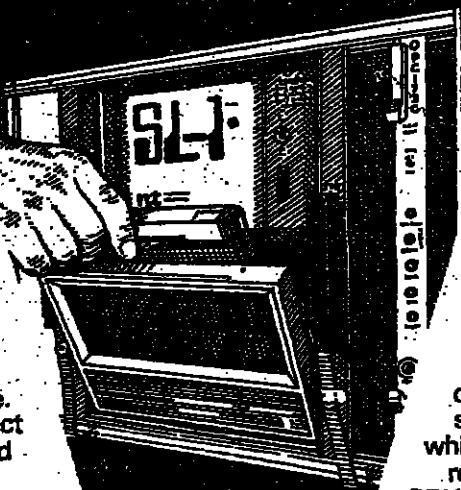
Northern Telecom Limited is a leader in telecommunications technology and the largest producer of fully digital switching and transmission systems in the world. The SL-1 fully digital PBX is already the world's top seller with nearly 3.5 million lines in service in 42 countries. In maintaining this technological lead we are taking a major initiative: developing new concepts for the SL-1 on an international scale from our Maidenhead base. We are therefore looking for Project Leaders, Software Designers and Software Support Engineers.

### PROJECT LEADERS & SOFTWARE DESIGNERS

In implementing this strategy your role will be crucial: developing new designs and enhancements, preparing documentation and ensuring that these major programmes come to fruition on time and to cost.

For Project Leaders and Software Designers with at least three to five years' experience in real-time or computer controlled telephone switching systems, these are excellent opportunities on the ground floor of a new venture in software architecture. A degree in electronic engineering, computer science or a related discipline is essential, and an understanding of SL-1 would be an advantage.

**nt** northern telecom



### SOFTWARE SUPPORT ENGINEER

As one of a small, highly skilled team responsible for supplying software expertise within the European Technical Support Group, your responsibilities will cover post-sales support to SL-1 customers throughout Europe and the Middle East. Some travel may be involved.

You must have at least five years' software experience in real-time or computer-controlled telephone switching systems, at least two of which should have been in a support role. Systems knowledge of digital PBXs, for example, hardware and software operations, would be an advantage.

Northern Telecom operates a comprehensive salary plan which rewards and recognises an individual contribution to the company. The negotiable salaries are highly attractive, full training will be provided and an extensive benefits package includes generous assistance with relocation costs.

To find out more, please telephone or send your CV to Colin Luker, Recruitment Manager, Northern Telecom plc, Langton House, Market Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 8BE. Telephone Maidenhead (0628) 35031.

**FOR THE SL-1**



**BRITISH AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

## PROMOTIONS OFFICER

The Amateur Athletic Association and the British Amateur Athletic Board require a Promotions Officer. This is a FULL-TIME appointment.

The person appointed will be responsible for all aspects of the BAAB/AAA promotions in an executive role. The person shall have a thorough knowledge of the sport plus work experience of organising international events and be capable of liaising with sponsors and the media at the highest level.

The salary is in the region of £20,000 p.a. negotiable.

Post to commence 1st April, 1985, or earlier.

Application forms and further information from: BAAB/AAA, Francis House, Francis Street, London, SW1P 1DL.

## Trainee Programmer/Analyst

£6,264-£8,712

One of the largest users of Information Technology in the South-west is seeking a young graduate of exceptional ability to train as an Analyst/Programmer.

An ambitious programme for the development of information systems and office systems technology is under way and you will, after initial training, be expected to play a key role in the implementation of a county-wide development programme based on office automation hardware and software.

Excellent career prospects, flexible working hours, contributory pension scheme, staff restaurant and social club are amongst the benefits provided.

Application form from the County Treasurer, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4QJ. Tel (0392) 77977 ext 2472, returnable by 6th February, 1985.

**DEVON**



## Engineering Software Development and Technical Consultancy

Mathematicians/Engineers/Scientists

SW LONDON

up to £11,014

The Mathematics and Computing Division of the London Research Station is the main centre for the development and support of technical software for engineers working on a wide range of gas industry projects.

We are now recruiting high-calibre mathematicians, scientists, engineers and computer specialists for challenging work in software development and technical consultancy. In particular we are looking for people skilled in one or more of the following areas: numerical analysis, optimisation methods, time series analysis, mathematical modelling and computer graphics.

Successful applicants will work on projects such as on-line monitoring and optimal control of the Corporation's national transmission system, simulation of oil and gas fields, modelling large gas networks and digital mapping.

Candidates should possess a good honours degree in a numerate discipline and have the ability to apply modern theoretical techniques to practical problems. You should enjoy writing computer software to solve engineering problems, and experience of using FORTRAN would be an advantage.

Starting salary will be within the range £7,791 to £11,014. Benefits are those normally associated with a large progressive organisation.

Please write for an application form, [quoting reference LR5/345/GJ], to: Personnel Officer (Fulham), British Gas, London Research Station, Michael Road, London SW6 2AD.

**BRITISH GAS**

## BIOSCIENCE SALES REPRESENTATIVE

U.S. Instrument manufacturer opening European sales office in London area seeks representative with Biology or Life Science background. Company paid travel to European customers. Ability to speak French and/or German desirable. Salary commensurate with ability and experience. Interested persons should send CV to: Sales Manager, 74 Grandview Avenue, Wallingford, Ct. 06492, USA.

## GRADUATES

If you have a University Degree, some work experience, live in or near London, and are over 25, but so far feel you have not achieved the earnings or career satisfaction you deserve, we have vacancies for good communicators with outgoing personalities who want to consider a new career. First year earnings up to £12,000 p.a. to those who enjoy talking and mixing with people.

Telephone Linda Miller on 01-837 7112

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING

Two Research Fellowships are required in the Department to undertake experimental and theoretical work leading to the construction of a computer-based model of short range VHF propagation in cluttered environments. Applicants should have experience in one or more of the following areas: 1) measurement techniques, data logging, antenna design, electromagnetic wave propagation and scattering theory, computer-based simulation and modelling. The posts are for up to two years from 1.1.85 and are funded by the MUR. Salary on the Research Fellow 1A scale £7,520-£12,150 plus superannuation. For further particulars phone 021-472 1301 ext. 2559, quoting reference SA. No formal application form. Three copies of application, including full Curriculum Vitae and naming three referees to Assistant Registrar (Science and Engineering), P.O. Box 365, Birmingham B15 2TT by 1 February 1985.

## ARTICLED CLERK WANTED

Interest in personal injury compensation work for plaintiffs necessary.

Apply in writing to John Pickering, 9 Church Lane, Oldham OL1 3AN.



# Computing Opportunities

The maintenance of scientific advancement and innovation in the Universities and Polytechnics of the UK needs the strongest possible computing support. As part of the Science and Engineering Research Council, the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) provides this support through large scale computing services and coordination of computing research programmes. There is a large IBM-compatible mainframe complex and a number of VAX (VMS and UNIX), GEC PRIME and PERQ computers.

The RAL Central Computing Division requires computer scientists, systems and applications programmers. The RAL Informatics Division requires staff to support the Government's new advanced technology initiative, the Alvey programme, and contribute towards the provision and development of the Alvey Infrastructure, including UNIX development on GEC Series 63 and SYSTIME VAX 11/750 systems.

## VACANCIES EXIST FOR-

### SINGLE USER SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMERS

SERC has set up a Common Base Programme to provide a highly integrated scientific/engineering single user workstation environment for its research community, based on interconnected heterogeneous systems such as the ICL PERQ. These offer a high resolution, high speed graphic display, tablet/mouse, large local filestore, powerful cpu, fast local area network, and X25 WAN connections. Software currently provided includes UNIX, P77 and Pascal compilers, a GKS graphics package, communications, and high quality program and document development tools.

The aim of the project is to provide tools and methodologies to support development of highly interactive graphics programs by and for SERC-supported research workers. Current work includes development and evaluation of object oriented programming systems, user interface prototyping and development tools, and related window manager research and development. Programmers with a range of experience are required, to continue and extend these developments. Candidates with originality and enthusiasm are especially sought. Knowledge of UNIX is not essential, but would be an asset. Applicants must be able to demonstrate sound programming practice and have interest (and preferably experience) in development of devices such as PERQ, with their high potential for good quality graphics and interaction, and hence vastly improved user interface.

### OTHER VACANCIES INCLUDE:-

- Networking Support
- Hardware/Software Interface Designers
- Intelligent Knowledge Based Systems Programmer
- C Programmers for UNIX
- UNIX Communications/Systems Programmers
- Graphics Programmers
- GEC User Support Programmers
- Decision Support Database Analyst/Programmer

- Transaction Processing Database Systems Programmer
- Scientific Database Programmer Analyst
- Single User Systems Support Programmers
- Cobol Applications Programmer
- Image Processing
- Electronics CAD
- Computational Modelling

Appointments will be made in one of the following grades depending on qualifications and experience.

Scientific Officer £5000 - £8153

Higher Scientific Officer £7435 - £10039

Applicants should have a degree, HNC/HND or equivalent in a scientific, mathematical or engineering subject.

Appointment to the grade of HSO requires a 1st or 2nd Class Honours degree with 2 years post graduate research or development experience or a minimum of 5 years relevant experience after qualifying for other applicants.

Rented housing for married couples and some assistance with expenses incurred in house sale/purchase will be available in appropriate cases. Good recreational facilities.

For full details and an application form please write quoting VNS14 and TITLES of the posts you are interested in, to: Recruitment Office, Personnel Group, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Science and Engineering Research Council, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0QX, or telephone Abingdon (0235) 445435.

Closing date for applications: 8th February 1985

serc Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

## Scottish Office Research and Senior Research Officers

...to join one of the nine branches of the Central Research Unit which provides a social research service to all the Scottish departments. The main function of the Unit is to carry out original and sharply focused policy research. The current vacancies are in teams working in Housing, Social Work, Transport and Criminal Justice.

**Housing Branch - Research Officer** ...to help with studies on the effectiveness of initiatives in the management of public sector housing and on the impact of public-private joint venture housing schemes.

**Housing Branch - Research Officer/Senior Research Officer** ...to study the department's continuing research on the effectiveness of the improvement grant system. Also work on forecasting housing expenditure and managing the research review machinery.

**Transport Branch - Research Officer** ...to study the efficiency and effectiveness of capital investment in various parts of transport infrastructure and services and to help evaluate developments in local transport provision.

**Social Work Branch - Research Officer** ...for research assistance to the SRO

carrying out a study of the nature, scale and organisation of use of social workers in hospital. Also help to evaluate alternative means of meeting social work's clients needs.

Candidates for all RO posts should normally have a degree with 1st or upper 2nd class honours (where divided), or a post-graduate degree, in a relevant subject. Exceptionally others with experience of special value also considered.

For the SRO post, a degree with 1st or 2nd class honours, or a post-graduate degree in a relevant subject is essential together with significant post-graduate research experience (normally at least 3 years).

Further details on application.

SALARY: SRO £9500 - £11920; RO £6015 - £8735. Starting salary may be above the minimum. Promotion prospects.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 12 February 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/6439.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

A programmer/analyst is required to join a small research team, consisting of psychiatrists, statisticians and a psychologist, based at the General Practice Research Unit at the Institute of Psychiatry in London. The team's objective is to design, implement and evaluate a system for the assessment, by computer, of psychological problems in general practice.

The programme will be written, initially, in BASIC, but will be structured to allow for future development using expert systems methodology.

The successful applicant will already have some experience with BASIC on microcomputers, but will be expected to acquire new skills as the project evolves.

The period of employment is 1 year, starting as soon as possible. Salary will be on Research Worker Grade 1B in the range £6,800 - £8,400 plus £1,200 pa London Allowance.

For application form and job description, please send stamped addressed envelope to the Assistant Secretary, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF quoting Ref PWC.

Closing date for applications: 28 February 1985.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Telephone:

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MANCHESTER 061-832 7200

## European Media Sales

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Anything underground from cable TV to the Channel Tunnel falls within the scope of TUNNELS and TUNNELLING, an international monthly combining high level finance and high technology. Sales experience, preferably in media, coupled with a good knowledge of German are desirable and excellent communication skills, resourcefulness and good organisational ability are essential. It will be necessary to spend up to two weeks at a time in mainland Europe travelling mainly by car, so additional languages would be an advantage.

If you meet these requirements and want to be a key member of a small and highly successful team we would like to hear from you. Based in London, the position commands a highly attractive package comprising salary, commission, a wide choice of company car, five weeks holiday and all the benefits associated with a company of Morgan-Grampian's standing.

Write in the first instance with a c.v. and a phone number where you may be contacted, to: Roger Adshead, Advertisement Manager, Tunnels and Tunnelling, MORGAN-GRAMPIAN PLC, 30 Calderwood Street, London SE18 6QH.

## a. SENIOR TRANSLATOR/REVISER & JUNIOR TRANSLATOR/REVISER

(from Dutch & German into English)

Leading Dutch translation company seeks British-born and educated staff employees. Requirements: broad knowledge of technical, economic and legal subjects; clarity of style; experience with dictation; for post a: several years' experience; knowledge other languages advantage. Applicants may be requested to do trial translations. Salary in accordance with quality of work and output (£8,800 - c. £14,000 p.a.). Good working conditions in small international team. Send application (stating willingness to move) to: Mr. G. J. Bothe, Vertaalsbureau Bothe, 61. Amstelveenseweg 174, 6524 GT Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

## PHILIP MORRIS Market Research Manager

A FIRST MANAGEMENT ROLE  
CIRCA £13,000

In the highly competitive cigarette market, Philip Morris has an enviable position: our Marlboro product is an international brand leader and, following the success of its launch in the south east of England in January last year, Ruffles is now available nationally.

Our success has been due largely to a combination of skilful forward planning, an innovative marketing approach and effective market research.

The restructuring of our Marketing Services Department has resulted in a need for a talented and ambitious Market Research Manager to head a team of two involved in the collection, evaluation and interpretation of market data.

This is an ideal opportunity for a young man or woman who has two or three years' market research experience, perhaps gained within a Research House, and who is now ready to move into a management position.

This is a broad-based research role, reporting to the Marketing Services Manager, but your prime area of involvement will be to develop and validate the qualitative research requirements for the U.K., liaising closely with the European headquarters in Lausanne. You will also have budget responsibility and will work closely with U.K. Research Houses.

It's a demanding appointment, calling for good communications skills and the ability to influence others, but it carries an attractive salary and benefits package and offers excellent promotion prospects.

If you would like to join this thriving company please contact George Vale, Personnel Manager at Philip Morris Limited, Philip Morris House, 21 High Street, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4AD. Tel: 01-751 6368.



## Softly, softly from Programming into Analysis (on £11,000 a year)

Like a lot of programmers, you probably want to move into systems analysis.

But you want the move to be a smooth transition, not a leap in the dark.

In which case, we think you'll be interested in a job for an analyst/programmer which one of our clients has asked us to help them fill.

The company is a large, very successful advertising agency that's in the middle of migrating from an ICL System 10 to a System 25, supported by Ericsson micros.

They're already running some pretty sophisticated bespoke and standard applications; the intention is to develop many more, and eventually to introduce a company-wide database.

So while your immediate involvement would be in writing new programs, you'd soon find yourself increasingly involved in analysing new systems requirements.

To handle the immediate tasks, you'll need at least two years commercial programming experience in a System 10 or 25 environment, working in COBOL and/or Assembler. To grow into the analysis role, you'll need the intellectual equipment that got you through some A levels, and a personality that means you don't have to be asked to get things moving.

The location is central London; the benefits really are good; the job really does give you the entry into the world of analysis that you're probably looking for.

If you're seriously interested, send a copy of your c.v. in confidence to T. G. Scott & Son Ltd, Preference 827, 30-32 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HR or write for a Personal History Form.

## TECHNICAL EDITOR — LOCATION BIRMINGHAM SALARY NEGOTIABLE A.A.E.

Our clients are an International Computer Training organisation who with Government support are developing open learning packages for training in Computer Technology.

They are seeking a Technical Editor who will work for the project leader and within a project team responsible for editing and coordinating Technical scripts and artwork and to prepare all material for printing.

Candidates should have a sound knowledge of computers and data processing and should preferably also have previous experience in the Technical Publication field.

A very realistic remuneration package will be offered to those who can meet the above Job Specification. Send a comprehensive C.V. or telephone for an application form quoting reference OT3. (All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence).

COMPUTER CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL  
24-36 STEPHENSON WAY, LONDON NW1 2HD  
Telephone 01-387 3550/388 2312

Licensed by the Department of Employment,  
London SE8555.  
Birmingham M1663. Bristol SW863

## EURO ACTION-ACORD

An International Development Agency working with Rural Communities in Africa seeks the following personnel:

**SUDAN**  
Representative/Agricultural Programme Co-ordinator/Programme Development and Design Officer/Community Development Specialist

**REQUIREMENTS:**  
— Extensive Third World experience in responsible positions.  
— Familiarity with NGO activities.  
— Sound judgement and strong analytical ability.  
— Strong administrative skills.  
— Proven experience in management personnel.  
— Planning and evaluation.  
— Linguistic ability.

**OTHERS:**  
We are also recruiting for short and long-term personnel with at least 3 years' Third World experience in the fields of Agriculture, Primary Health Care, Appropriate Technology and Water Engineering.

**Remuneration:** Most posts, professional salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.  
**Duration:** Short-term: 1-3 months consultancy Long-term: Initially 2 years', with possibility for extension.

For further details, please write with full c.v. plus names of 3 professional referees to: Personnel Dept., Euro Action-ACORD, Francis House, (3rd Floor), Francis Street, London, SW1P 1DQ.

## WHO DARES WINS

Investment trading isn't easy and we sincerely doubt you'll become a millionaire overnight. However, as a professional and established company we will comprehensively train you to earn in excess of £12,000 in your first year. If you are presentable, ambitious and prepared to work extremely hard for the rewards you desire, we offer an unparalleled career and commission structure and consider enthusiasm to be the best form of experience. Age 21-35.

Telephone Mark James on 01-831 98447, 4 lines.

## Two Senior Sales and Marketing appointments in the Semiconductor Industry

E. T. Electrotech is an expanding UK based international company successfully designing, manufacturing and selling semiconductor production equipment to a world market.

Our continued growth has created two challenging positions for young professionals within our sales and marketing functions.

## SENIOR MARKETING EXECUTIVE

at least £12,000 p.a.

Based at group headquarters we require a person with a thorough knowledge of all aspects of marketing in a high tech environment. Qualifications to degree level, ideally in a technical discipline, should be supplemented by several years experience in sales and/or marketing. We expect the successful applicant to display the potential to assume the role of marketing manager within two years.

## COMMERCIAL MANAGER

at least £12,000 p.a.

Based at our sales division headquarters we seek a seasoned professional to take responsibility for a full range of commercial activities including documentation, contracts, insurances, and internal staff supervision. Candidates should preferably have formal qualifications in accountancy or law, or hold an M.B.A.

Both positions will command highly competitive salaries and the benefits associated with a progressive growing company. Relocation expenses will be paid where appropriate. If you think you can meet our high standards, please phone or write for an application or send full career details to:

Chris Matthews,  
E. T. Electrotech,  
Whale Wharf,  
Littleton upon Seven,  
Thornbury,  
Bristol BS2 1NP.  
Tel: 0454 419008.



## Showroom Development Officer

ALTRINCHAM, CHESHIRE up to £11,645

North West Gas, the largest Region within British Gas, serves over 2 million customers in Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire, and operates over 100 showrooms throughout these areas.

We are now looking for a Showroom Development Officer to be based in the Marketing Services Department of Altrincham. The successful applicant will be responsible to the Marketing Services Manager for the design of all our showrooms and must have first hand knowledge of interior design, building techniques and legislation affecting building projects. Candidates should have interior design or architectural qualifications and at least four years practical experience. A clean driving licence is essential.

Starting salary will be in the range £10,119 to £11,645. In addition we offer a range of benefits including excellent pension scheme, over 5 weeks' annual holiday and assistance with relocation expenses where appropriate.

Please telephone for an application form between 9 am - 4.30 pm Monday to Friday and return it quoting ref: HQ28/R/G to Personnel Officer [HQ], North West Gas, Welman House, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 8AE. Telephone 061-941 3964.

Closing date for applications: 31st January 1985.

NORTH WEST GAS

## TRAINERS WANTED ICOM LARGE CO-OPS PILOT TRAINING PROGRAMME

We are looking for a number of TRAINERS to work with one or more large London Co-operatives. They will need skills in some of the following areas:

- Democratic and Collective working.
- Management.
- Marketing Techniques.
- Finance.
- Diagnosis of Co-op/Business problems.

We are also looking for a number of people to develop a special relationship with one or more of the CO-OPS, to lay a basis for the most effective forms of training and to follow this through into organisational practice.

The project will last for a year from May, 1985. Fees in the range of £80-£150 per day. Send C.V. and covering letter by February 11. Interviews March 1. Further details from:

Elaine Moore,  
Greater London Enterprise Board,  
63-67 Newington Causeway,  
London SE1 6BD. Tel: 01-403 0300, ext 274.

Industrial Common Ownership Movement (I.C.O.M.) is an equal opportunities employer.

## DATA BASE OPPORTUNITIES START WITH CCI

★ **SYSTEMS PROGRAMMER — LONDON SALARY** AAE c £17,000. INTERNATIONAL BANK IBM ENVIRONMENT VMD/DOS/VSE/CICS/MVS.

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★ **PL1 PROGRAMMERS — LONDON SALARY** c £15,000. INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS. IBM ENVIRONMENT.

★ **TECHNICAL EDITOR — BIRMINGHAM SALARY** NEG. DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN LEARNING MODULES FOR TRAINING IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY TO EDIT AND CO-ORDINATE TECHNICAL SCRIPTS AND ARTWORK AND PREPARE MATERIAL FOR PRINTING. SOUND KNOWLEDGE COMPUTERS AND DATA PROCESSING ESSENTIAL.

3 above are a few of many career opportunities on our register waiting to be filled now. Contact us giving details of your present suitability in the above opportunities or register with the next career move in strictest confidence.

COMPUTER CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL  
24-36 STEPHENSON WAY, LONDON NW1 2HD  
TELEPHONE 01-388 2312, 01-387 3550

Licensed by the Department of Employment  
London SE8555, Birmingham M1663, Bristol SW863

## APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR at The Royal Horticultural Society's Garden, Wisley, Surrey

Applications are invited for the post of Director for the RHS Garden, Wisley, Surrey, following the appointment of Mr C. D. Brickell, the present Director, to the position of Director General of The Royal Horticultural Society.

The successful applicant is likely to be between 30-45 years of age, possess a degree in Horticulture/Botany, an ND4 or a relevant equivalent qualification and must have proven administrative and managerial ability and experience.

Further details of the post may be obtained by applying, in writing, to: The Director General, The Royal Horticultural Society, PO Box 313, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE. Completed applications must be received not later than 1st March, 1985.

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## COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS

BANKING CONSULTANTS C. LONDON

To contribute to a professional and efficient service, the information systems division of a leading international Banking Corporation is seeking to recruit top class Consultants. Ideally graduates of high quality, you will have a strong commitment to management skills and a solid background in the development and implementation of computerised banking systems. Previous experience for the BCI and BCI-D (Bank of Canada) would be a definite advantage. As Consultants will have to discuss their work with senior management, a high level of communication skills is essential. The successful candidates will be able to handle the requirements of a wide range of banking systems, including the BCI and BCI-D. The successful candidates will be able to handle the requirements of a wide range of banking systems, including the BCI and BCI-D. The successful candidates will be able to handle the requirements of a wide range of banking systems, including the BCI and BCI-D.

GRADUATE ANALYST/ PROGRAMMER

C. LONDON BASED TO: £14,000

Graduates with a degree in any discipline and upwards of 18 months commercial computing experience are invited to apply to the leading international Banking Corporation. Successful applicants will be encouraged to develop their computing and business skills within the Corporation. A wide variety of applications software and hardware are covered with the emphasis being on IBM. In return the company offers the opportunity for overseas travel, substantial training, excellent salaries and a well planned career path.

JNR AND SNR PROGRAMMER

GREATER LONDON TO: £13,500

One of Britain's leading Engineering Consultancies, secure Junior and Senior Programmers. Applicants must have good FORTRAN experience capable of working on a variety of hardware from PDP-11 to PDP-11/23. The successful candidates should have an engineering background as they will be required to support and maintain a variety of applications with an engineering bias. The company provides the opportunity for overseas travel, substantial training, excellent salaries and a well planned career path.

BUSINESS ANALYST (ANY MACHINE EXP)

BERKS TO: £15,000

This international manufacturing company require a Business Analyst to work in their Management Services Division. Candidates should be graduates with between 2-5 years D.P. experience, a sound business background and good verbal communication skills. Experience of IBM hardware would be advantageous as would familiarity with business systems (BASIC) and full knowledge of the company's products. The successful applicants will be working with senior management and research applications. The company offers a competitive salary and large company benefits.

APPROX W. LONDON TO: £13,500

A major hardware manufacturer based in West London is seeking a number of Analysts. Programmers to work on the development of new systems. The successful applicants will be encouraged to develop their computing and business skills within the Corporation. A wide variety of applications software and hardware are covered with the emphasis being on IBM. In return the company offers the opportunity for overseas travel, substantial training, excellent salaries and a well planned career path.

IBM PROG/SNR PROG C. LONDON

TO: £13,500 + MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

A major City based insurance Company are currently seeking to recruit two Programmers. Programmers should have at least 1 year IBM COBOL experience in a COBOL or SAS environment. CICS DL1 training given and for the more senior position experience of CICS DL1 DOS VSE plus the ability to supervise staff. The successful applicants will be working on CICS DL1 programs in a development environment, additionally the Senior Programmer will supervise and manage a team of Programmers and be responsible for program development.

SNR PROGRAMMER TECHNICAL ANALYST

HAMPSHIRE £12K + SUB MORT + RELOC

One of the country's leading Banks require a variety of staff from Programmers and Senior Programmers to Technical Analysts. Candidates must have a minimum of 8 months experience of mainframe COBOL, and possibly BASIC, to work on their LAMVAC 1100 System. The company is currently looking for someone with a financial background but with some commercial experience. Those applicants interested in the more senior positions must have some supervisory experience with at least 2-4 years in data processing. In addition to the competitive salary, benefits include a mortgage subsidy, pension scheme, group profit share and a relocation where necessary.

COBOL PROG/ANALYST (ANY MACHINE)

ESSEX £9.5K - £12.5K + RELOC

A manufacturing company is currently seeking a Prog Analyst with at least 2 years COBOL programming experience. The successful applicant will be working on a wide variety of applications within the manufacturing, engineering and financial fields. Although Honeywell DPM experience is preferred, other hardware experience would be considered as training will be given. The position is predominantly programming within a project team. Though analysis work will be involved from the start, as well as a very competitive salary, the benefits include relocation if necessary.

**DATAPOWER**  
COMPUTER EMPLOYMENT LTD 01-437 5994  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS 01-439 8302 (24 Hr.)  
21 CORK STREET, LONDON W1X 1HB.  
EVENINGS UNTIL 10 p.m. 01-274 0940 01-354 0886

## Engineering Graduates

Recently qualified or completed your initial post-graduate training and still undecided about your future career path?

Our client, part of a major U.K. based International Group have several vacancies for Project Officers in the North West. These exciting opportunities offer you first-hand job involvement, and early responsibilities, whilst enabling you to make a clearer decision about your next step up the career ladder.

Your role will be to assist the Management team at one of the Company's North West plants, in carrying through a major re-organisation programme, designed to equip the Company to meet the challenge of the electronics market into the 1990's and beyond. As such, you will be given responsibility for specific project work across a range of activities related to the re-organisation.

It goes without saying you will hold an engineering based degree. Of equal importance is determination, enthusiasm, a practical approach to problem solving and strong leadership qualities. In short—if you've got what it takes—you'll be given every opportunity to grow with this forward-thinking Company.

An attractive starting salary package is offered, including all usual big company benefits.

So, if you feel you would like to join a team that is definitely going places, write to me, Jane Yates, with enough details about yourself to make an application form unnecessary, at the address below.

WBH

whites bull holmes ltd.

Phoenix House, 45 Cross Street, Manchester M2 4JF. 061-832 5441.

## Sales Professionals with a fast-moving supplier to the fast-moving automotive industry!

The very successful North West company is a major supplier of headlamps and other interior trim materials to major motor manufacturers in the UK and Europe.

The company are re-organising and are now ready for a major new attack on the market in 1985

## Sales Manager

Lancashire-based

This new position will carry full responsibility for the marketing of the company's products to all the leading car manufacturers.

Leading a small and dynamic sales team, you will ensure maximum penetration of the market—primarily by holding professional technical presentations to the manufacturers.

Applicants must have a proven success record in sales management—preferably but not essentially involving the automotive industry. You must be able to negotiate at the highest level and—above all—you must relish the challenge of a dynamic and highly competitive market.

## Sales Executive

South-East England

This particularly important position involves providing the vital link between the company and Ford Motor Co. You will sell the clients Engineering and Purchasing personnel and will control every aspect of the account including accounts, engineering, quality control etc. Around 22 you must have a technical background but will now be a confident, committed sales professional who thrives on success.

Both jobs offer exciting future prospects and generous relocation assistance where appropriate.

CV to: Cathy Homer, PER, Victoria House, Omersley Road, Preston PR1 2DX

Tel: (0774) 89743

Professional &amp; Executive Recruitment

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## YOUNG, ENTHUSIASTIC

## ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY/P.A.

Salary negotiable

required to work in busy estate agents near to Fulham Broadway. Working primarily for the Senior Partner you'll need excellent typing both shorthand and word processing is not essential. You will need to work on own initiative and turn your hand to various other duties which include assisting in the PR of the firm, helping the recruitment of other secretarial staff, and generally assisting in the smooth running of this modern equipped office.

A car driver would be preferred and parking facilities are available.

For further details contact Mr Cook on 01-738 5406.

## A Levels or Higher?

## Professional Training and a First Class Career in Valuation Surveying

The valuation of land and buildings from farm land to mineral workings, from dwelling houses to industrial estates, from licensed premises to schools and hospitals is the responsibility of the Valuation Office of the Board of Inland Revenue.

As a Cadet Valuer you will be trained to become an expert Valuation Surveyor. Practical experience coupled with formal courses leading to the examinations of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors will equip you to undertake a wide variety of highly specialised work, while giving you every opportunity to benefit from excellent career prospects.

Vacancies throughout England and Wales. Starting salary within the range £3740-£6220 depending on age. Up to £1300 higher in London. Promotion prospects to £16,500 and above.

You must have, or obtain in 1985, OCE passes in five subjects including two at 'A' level or in four subjects including three at 'A' level. Subjects must include English Language and Maths at least two 'A' levels must be at least Grade C or above and must have been obtained in one examination. SCE and certain other equivalent qualifications acceptable.

For further information and an application form (to be returned by 19 February 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: T/34673.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer.

## Sales development specialist

## Clinical laboratory products

Our Health Sciences Sales Department, based in Hemel Hempstead, require a Specialist to develop the technical resources for marketing in the clinical laboratory area and assist in the development of long term marketing plans. A background of work in clinical biochemistry laboratories is essential and experience in marketing and selling blood analysis equipment to the profession would be an advantage.

Applicants, male or female, should be aged between 25-35 years with a degree in either organic, applied or clinical chemistry and either be a member of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technicians or have a basic medical training. A sound working knowledge of the clinical laboratory environment is essential.

This position provides the opportunity to join a new team in our Health Sciences Sales Department with opportunities for future growth in this field.

The starting salary will be dependent on qualifications and experience but will not be less than £12,000 (including attendance bonus) per annum (under review). In addition we offer excellent employee benefits including a contributory pension plan.

If you have the required background and qualifications please send a full c.v., write or telephone for an application form to: Mr. C. J. Long, Personnel Department, Kodak Limited, P.O. Box 68, Station Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 1JU. Tel. 0442 61122 Ext. 27. Direct applications only.



## Nutritionist

Pointing the way to healthy eating—own label food products Cheshunt

Tesco is expanding, with enviable trading figures and performance demonstrating its success in retailing. New stores, new product ranges are maintaining this momentum with continuing development in own label products—particularly food products where Tesco is responding to public awareness over nutritional values and healthy eating.

First stage in this pioneering work is to provide nutritional information on the packaging of each of its own label food products—Tesco is the first supermarket group to do this seriously and with over 1500 products to cover, we are looking for a qualified and experienced Nutritionist to be responsible for developing this programme. This is a responsible position: wide-ranging duties include writing of educational/consumer material on nutritional and dietary topics, working closely with our Chemists and Food Technologists in the preparation of nutritional

data. You will also represent the Company at conferences etc., and liaise with outside bodies and authorities.

To apply you must have a degree in Nutrition, or Home Economics together with a post-graduate diploma in Dietetics, and will have at least three years' relevant experience in either the Food Industry or possibly Community Dietetics.

Salary is negotiable and will reflect your experience, qualifications and the importance of this appointment. Excellent big-company benefits include generous relocation expenses where appropriate.

Please write with full CV including current salary, to Miss Avril Higley, Personnel Officer, Tesco Stores, Tesco House, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Herts EN8 9SL.



## KNITTING TECHNICIAN NIGERIA

Applicants, married or single, any nationality, must have at least 5 years' experience and qualified for Raschel-machine. It would be an advantage if also qualified on a Malimo machine.

The position is based in Lagos with a medium sized company. First contract minimum 2 years. Salary dependent on experience with possible bonus after 12 months. Package includes accommodation, including water, light and heat. Car provided. 4 weeks holiday. Return airfare to Europe.

Applications in writing only to:

L. H. THOMPSON FCA ATIL,  
64 KINGS STREET, NEWCASTLE,  
STAFFS FT5 1JD

## MARKETING AND SPONSORSHIP Salary Negotiable

Person required at independent vocational specialist Ballet school and college of further education, in Covent Garden.

Superb person preferred, although if you are enthusiastic and have the right approach, we are willing to train you.

Please apply in writing to: The

Urdang Academy, 2022 Shelton Street, London WC2.

LONDON ZOO requires

RECEPTIONIST/

POSTAL MESSENGER

for Museum Office. Applicants should have writing and a helpful disposition and enjoy meeting people at all levels. Salary £2800 - £3200 p.a. inclusive, according to age and experience. Salary under review.

Average 38 hour week throughout year, with one weekend in three to be worked on roster. Permanent pensionable post. Staff

colours. Apply in writing to: The

Education Office, Education Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

## GOVERNMENT OF VICTORIA (AUSTRALIA)

The following two positions have become available in the Office of the Agent General for Victoria (Australia).

## 1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Salary range £10,540-£12,395

Duties: to assist in the promotion of Victoria as a venue for the UK and European trade and investment.

Qualifications: a suitable academic level, a sound knowledge of the Victorian finance and business environment. Good working knowledge of UK and European finance and business activities.

## 2. ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER

Salary range £9,185-£10,155

Duties: to assist the Chief Finance Officer in the varied accounting and administrative duties associated with the business of an overseas government office.

Qualifications: a suitable academic level, ability to work effectively in a quick response administrative environment.

Applications detailing personal particulars and cv should be addressed to: Ms S. Coffey, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the Agent General for Victoria, Victoria House, Melbourne Place, Strand, London WC2B 4LG; no later than 7th February, 1985.

## GRADUATE RETAIL MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

The Co-operative Movement seeks Graduate, H.N.D. or B.E.C. Higher trainees to join a six-month retail management training scheme commencing in September, 1985, at the Co-operative Management Centre, Loughborough.

Evidence will be sought of ambition, commitment and ability to progress to senior managerial posts. First post could be anywhere in the U.K.

Further details and application forms (returnable by the 1st February, 1985) from: Chief Education Officer, M.T.S., Co-operative College, Stanford Hall, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 5QR. Telephone: East Leake (050882) 2333.

## SALES £10,000 + CAR + BENEFITS

"A BUSINESS WITHIN A BUSINESS"

A rare opportunity for an experienced sales person to develop their own business incorporating marketing, budgeting and promotions. The British agents of this highly acclaimed Swiss paperboard company can guarantee a tremendous challenge with excellent career progression.

## PUBLICITY/PROMOTIONS

£8,000 + CAR + BENEFITS

This company's excellent reputation have made them leaders in their field. Join an existing team promoting quality art papers to designers, printers and ad agencies. Determination and flair could outweigh experience.

Contact Gillian Ellis on 01-404 0022

KINGSLAND PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS

## The Polytechnic of North London ACCOMMODATION OFFICER (M.G.11)

Following the appointment of the previous postholder to a senior position at a Local Authority Housing Department, applications are invited from candidates who feel that they would be able to manage a busy office offering a full range of accommodation, information and advisory services to students. Applicants should be of graduate level and should be able to demonstrate from their experience a creative approach to problem solving and administration.

Salary scale £10,423-£13,185 inclusive of London weighting.

Application form and further particulars obtainable from the Personnel Office, Polytechnic of North London, Holloway N7 8BN.

Closing date from the receipt of applications February 28, 1985.

Telephone Julia on 01-439 6921 for interview

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## RESEARCH/RESEARCH AWARDS

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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

MICROELECTRONICS

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MICHAEL SMITH  
on opening a floodgate

# Hands to the water rate pump

THE ROW over the cost of water, which has been simmering gently on the political backburner since November, is now fast approaching boiling point.

Thames, the biggest regional water authority, is openly challenging strict new Government financial targets, which mean that for the next three years domestic and industrial water bills will rise at more than double the projected rate of inflation and well above what the industry wants.

The Government proposals are being roundly assailed as a means of "backdoor" taxation of water and are proving yet another embarrassment for the ministerial duo at the Department of Environment, Patrick Jenkin and Ian Gow.

The row first surfaced in November during the inter-departmental debate about public spending cuts for the 1985-86 financial year which begins in April. The ten regional water authorities in England and Wales emerged from the meeting with a conflicting message.

On the one hand, the DoE was pressing the authorities to increase their capital expenditure on water and sewerage facilities. On the other, the DoE slashed the industry's operating costs by 10 per cent to £209 million and told the authorities to repay their hundreds of millions of pounds in Government loans within the next three years.

Water chiefs quickly worked out that to meet the new targets, domestic tariffs would have to rise by an average of 12 per cent in April and by around 9 per cent in each of the two following years. The projected 28 per cent increase in prices for domestic water and sewerage is about double the Government forecast of inflation over the same period. The rises are also well above what the industry wants. The industry has repeatedly complained that householders and industry have had water too cheaply for too long.

Mr Len Hill, chairman of the Water Authorities Association, emerged from a meeting with Mr Gow and summed up the position neatly: "The industry is being asked to make more money than is necessary to run the industry."

Roy Watts, recently installed as head of Thames, took a harder line. He said the proposals were an abuse of monopoly power and has now challenged Mr Jenkin's authority for the new financial regime. Mr Jenkin has not responded.

Thames, with 11 million households and 25 per cent of the population in its constituency, is rapidly becoming an important test case for both the water industry itself and other public sector bodies unhappy at being used as tax-raising vehicles.

Mr Watts has drawn on his Government from British Airways to bring the new financial discipline to Thames Water's activities, wants to put up domestic water charges by three per cent in April. But the Government's stance means that short of an unexpected and humiliating defeat for Jenkin and Gow, tariffs will soar by 10 per cent.

Mr Watts also wanted to pay off around £25 million of Thames's old debts and raise capital spending by £23 million to £130 million.

The effect of the new Government stance is that prices will have to rise by 10 per cent due to inflation, will climb to as much as £45 million, and capital spending will fall in real terms, after adjustment for inflation, by £10 million.

The consequences for Thames Water and its customers offer a stark contrast to the Government's plea for lower inflation, increased capital spending and more commercial freedom in the public sector. Further, there is every indication that the experience of Thames will be repeated elsewhere in the country during the coming years as other authorities are forced to repay old debts.

The Thames region is overwhelmingly Tory and while it is difficult to envisage a mass revolt against the Government on water, there is considerable concern among MPs.

However, time is running out. Mr Watts says that Thames must notify customers of the charges it plans for 1985-86 by February 20. If there is no shift in the Government's ground, it is probable that Thames will send out bills with a demand for a three per cent increase — in line with its original proposals. If the Government wins, Thames would be forced to issue supplementary bills demanding the additional seven per cent — a highly unpopular move that would mean Thames would rebound on its servant.

But the Government can hardly have expected an easy ride by imposing a tax on water.



Britain's first atomic weapon was detonated in the Montebello Islands in the Pacific in 1953 (right), is a new weapons programme now needed at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston (above)?

DAVID FAIRHALL outlines the problems facing Britain's tactical weapons policy makers

## Taking stock of the ageing nuclear stockpile

THE LAST thing Mrs Thatcher and her Defence Secretary, Michael Heseltine, want right now is another contentious nuclear issue to fuel public debate and provide fresh ammunition for the anti-nuclear movement.

But sooner or later the military planners had to face the problem of replacing Britain's stockpile of so-called tactical nuclear weapons — that is the bombs and depth-charges rather than the long-range missiles like Polaris or Trident — and the signs are it can no longer be avoided.

Fresh military work is already quietly under way and there are several external pressures which seem likely to force a political decision before the end of the year. In the words of one senior military source, "we should be replacing these things years ago."

The first factor is that like Polaris, our bombs and depth-charges are simply getting old. Nuclear weapons are carefully-engineered structures assembled from fissile material, like plutonium, conventional high explosives and various electrical components. At a price, they can be almost indefinitely refurbished. But extending their "shelf-life" in this way takes no account of the prospect of the weapons being used. Others would be completely obsolete, a wider range of explosive yields, or just external changes to adapt the weapons to different launch platforms — a new shape of bomb for a new type of aircraft, for example.

Some of these potential improvements should concern all of us, military or civilian, even if there is no immediate prospect of the weapons being used. Others would be completely irrelevant if they were used.

So when NATO's commanders began recently to rethink their nuclear policy along with realistic lines — produced by an increasingly anxious public opinion — there was a parallel move to modernise the weaponry as well. The "neutron bomb," designed to kill tank crews by prompt radiation without destroying so many nearby buildings by heat and blast, was a product of this process. And although in this country we try not to talk about such things, even behind closed doors in the House of Commons Defence Committee, the principle applies to Britain's modest inventory of tactical nuclear weapons as it does to the much larger American one.

NATO realised years ago that something would have to be done about the vast stockpile of 7,000 tactical or battlefield nuclear weapons that had accumulated in Europe since the end of the Second World War. It was virtually unusable — either physically obsolete, politically unacceptable, or lacking any modern military rationale.

A thousand of the oldest warheads and weapons were simply taken back to the United States and dismantled to recover the valuable fissile material. Then a mainly civilian body called the High Level Group, chaired by Richard Perle, was given the job of rationalising the remainder. This led to the Montebello decision of 1983 — to reduce the remaining 8,000 to 4,600 by removing 2,000 and adding back 600 newly-developed cruise and Pershing missiles like those at Greenham Common.

NATO's Supreme Commander in Europe (Saceur), the forthright US general, Bernard Rogers, had meanwhile been adding his own look at the problem in the context of his Belgian headquarters' annual nuclear weapons requirements study. Gen. Rogers disapproved of the High Level Group's decision to scrap specific nuclear requirements which he felt were his responsibility as a soldier. So when the NATO nuclear planning group meets in March, he will present his own report explaining both how he proposes to replace

the Montebello decision over the next three years and what kind of nuclear arsenal he would like to see as Saceur — not necessarily the same.

The Montebello stockpile includes all land-based weapons in Europe — nuclear artillery and aircraft bombs — but not naval weapons. So the RAF's British-made bombs and American depth-charges are included in General Rogers's requirements study. So are Rhine Army's American battlefield missiles and shells, or artillery-fired atomic projectiles as the US Army calls them. But the Royal Navy's depth-charges are excluded, even though they apparently use the same basic nuclear device as one of the two types of bomb the RAF is believed to have available.

An accurate breakdown of the 6,000 warheads has never been published. The broad numbers are probably something like this: Tomahawk cruise missiles and Pershing II ballistic missiles 250, Nike-Hercules anti-aircraft missiles 650, Lance battlefield missiles 700, Honest John battlefield missiles 200, atomic demolition munitions (nuclear land mines) 400, depth-charges (for land-based aircraft) 200, bombs 1,500, artillery shells (for 155mm and 203mm howitzers) 2,000. Total 6,000.

The Nike-Hercules are scheduled to be phased out by 1992 and replaced by the non-nuclear Patriot. General Rogers will surely recommend reducing the number of land mines (I have yet to meet anyone in NATO who believes the West Germans would give permission for their use, since they would have to be dug in before the battle started and would contaminate the ground afterwards).

No doubt he would also like to get rid of the remaining obsolescent Honest John missiles in Greece and Turkey, but may be reluctant to do so unless they are replaced by the more modern

longer range version of the Lance missile with a choice of warheads, nuclear or conventional, to replace its somewhat vulnerable Sin howitzers.

If the RAF is to have a new nuclear weapon, should it opt for a free-fall bomb or some sort of cruise missile — which might then best be bought off the American shelf? A long-range stand-off missile is in fact under development as a joint NATO programme, but according to the Ministry of Defence, this would not be suitable for a nuclear warhead.

The Royal Navy could once again use the same basic warhead as the RAF to equip its anti-submarine helicopters. But first it must consider whether the development of "intelligent" homing torpedoes makes the cumbersome nuclear depth-charge redundant.

The whole trend of NATO's evolving tactics, vigorously endorsed by Gen. Rogers, has been to place less reliance on nuclear weapons as advanced technology makes it possible to strike deeply, accurately and powerfully with non-nuclear weapons, exchanging the blunderbuss for the rapier.

The British forces could encourage this trend by abandoning the nuclear battlefield as the weapons wear out, thereby making a unilateral gesture towards, among other things, the central European nuclear-weapons-free zone the SDP leader Dr David Owen sought to promote.

They will be held back by the argument that even where there is no longer any direct military case for a nuclear weapon — because a conventional one can now do the job — it is required by what NATO officials like to call the seamless web of nuclear deterrence. In other words, we, NATO — though not necessarily Britain — must retain a few of everything so the other side knows we have them.

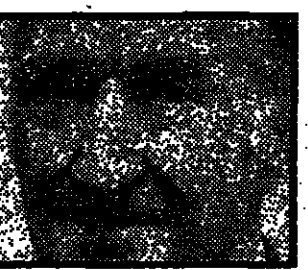
Finally, there is what one might call the Aldermaston factor — the activity of that powerful, secretive nuclear establishment which gave us the £1,100 million Chevaline warhead for Polaris without even informing the full Cabinet, let alone the House of Commons. And this will probably set the timing of any tactical nuclear replacement programme, because the new plutonium fabrication facility being built at Aldermaston at a cost of several hundred million pounds apparently does not have the capacity to make Trident missile warheads and bombs simultaneously. Either that, or some other bottleneck in the production line, means that the tactical warheads would have to be programmed in when the Trident job was finished.

The essence of the Aldermaston case will be that Britain needs a continuing nuclear design and development capability to keep our end up with the Americans and monitor activity in the Soviet Union or elsewhere. Besides which there are lots of top-grade scientists down in Berkshire who will need another exciting challenge — not to mention a job — when their Trident work is finished, or perhaps even cancelled. Without Trident, Britain would rely on a cruise missile or perhaps just a bomb as its primary deterrent. And if we do not get on with the job of testing a small modern device, perhaps the Americans and the Russians will do a deal over our heads to ban testing altogether.

For the moment, all that matters is that this vital and complex issue should be dragged out into the open for wider discussion and scrutiny to establish whether the speculative assumptions which underpin the current policy are sound. It must not be left, as policy decisions on nuclear weapons always have been in this country, for cosmetic parliamentary debate when the Whitehall papers have been written and the ministerial decisions taken.

JONATHAN STEELE on the group captain flying a policy of military non-alignment

## How to be secure in the knowledge of neutrality



Group Captain Johnson

BRITAIN should disengage from NATO, recognises that its international role has diminished and that it is under a policy of military non-alignment. This is the view of Peter Johnson, a former group captain in the RAF and past president of his local Conservative Association in Darford, Kent.

Outlining his argument in a book published today, *Neutrality: A Policy for Britain*, he joins the small but apparently growing group of British right-wingers who have come to consider a neutralist position a reasonable common ground with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. They believe that the world has changed considerably since 1945, that the Soviet Union has no quarrel with Britain sufficient to lead to war, and that the defence consensus of the past 40 years which underlies NATO needs urgent re-examination.

They also share the view, as Mr Richard Body MP put it at a press conference for the book yesterday, that the media does not give a fair or adequate hearing to alternative views on defence. He

was sure, he said, that efforts would be made to smear Group Captain Johnson as a pacifist or Communist, when, as a holder of the DSO and DFC, and a Conservative, he was clearly neither.

Nor does Group Captain Johnson emerge from his book as either anti-American, or moralist, or even anti-nuclear. He is simply a man in his own defence, Britain might decide to keep tactical nuclear weapons. Strategic weapons such as Polaris and Trident would have to go from the arsenal since Britain cannot afford to make them, and the United States would not provide them for a neutral nation.

His argument is down to earth and practical. "Whether we like it or not,

the United Kingdom in itself is neither a target, nor a factor of any real consequence in the calculations of the greatest powers," he writes. Britain's contribution to the defence of Western Europe is at the expense of her own security, since NATO is basically an alliance between the United States and West Germany.

The chances of a neutral Britain being attacked in a super-power war are low, and if it were attacked, the objective would be the use of its facilities. The level of destruction would probably be lower than that expected in an alliance, when Britain would enter war as an active combatant.

Group Captain Johnson does not suggest that defence costs under neutrality

would be much lower than they are today. He describes his idea as sensible, and says that it has been so little canvassed because politicians, military chiefs, and the media find it distasteful to accept a relatively minor role for Britain.

He developed his neutralist views because it seemed odd that with the changed relationship between states in Europe and the change in attitudes between the United States and the Soviet Union, the same defence grouping should continue today. It was right to form NATO in 1949, but not right for Britain to continue its membership now.

He concedes that there is an isolationist feel to his ideas, but adds that Britain cannot address itself to the

question whether other NATO members should withdraw one by one. That is for their people to decide. He hopes only that the idea will be "spread across the political spectrum."

He challenges the notion that Britain has a moral obligation to join the US, even though Britain may accept much that the US aspires to in the world. "Practical considerations have always governed American policy, and it is right that it should be so. Practical considerations as seen from London must govern British policy," he writes.

*Neutrality: A Policy for Britain* by Peter Johnson, is published by Maurice Temple Smith at £3.50 hardback, £3.95 paperback.

## The maker of the realm

SIR ARTHUR BRYANT, who according to his fellow-historian, Professor John Kenyon, "took history out to a wider audience than anyone since Macaulay," died on Tuesday night at New Hall Hospital, Salisbury.

Although he was 85, his last book, the characteristically titled *Set in a Silver Sea*, published only a year ago, is still in the best-seller lists. He became a household name through book club editions, nearly half a century ago.

He was most widely known as a broad-brush, best-selling chronicler of a Britain which he never ceased to see as heroic. In one of his last newspaper articles, he wrote that the 1982 Falklands conflict had taught an important historical truth "which men in every generation have to learn — that there are times when only brave deeds can restrain evil acts."

But he also wrote an early series of meticulously-researched books, using original material, which established the diarist Samuel Pepys as a great naval administrator rather than only a literary lecher. He discovered two new Pepys diaries.

Arthur Bryant acquired his cherished status as "a late Victorian" with his birth on February 18, 1899, on the Sandringham estate, the son of a secretary to the future King Edward VII. He acquired his sense of history at Harrow, reading bound volumes of the *Illustrated Lon-*

don News, the magazine on which he was to succeed G. K. Chesterton as columnist from 1936 until this year.

He once said in a *Guardian* interview that he fully discovered that the past was real while sorting previously untouched 17th century manuscripts during his twenties. Sand from the blotting sand dishes still glistened in the folds. "And all their hopes and all their fears/Bygone things from other years," he said, quoting a line from William Barnes.

He served as an airman under Lord Trenchard in the First World War, went to Queen's College, Oxford, qualified as a barrister and at 23 became the youngest headmaster in England, as

principal of Cambridge Art and Technical College. Later he lectured in history at Oxford. In 1935 he became professor of history at London University.

The immediacy, warmth, colour and sweep of his writing won immediate success for his first book, *King Charles II*, which sold 20,000 copies in 1931. Thereafter, he produced almost a book a year for large periods of his life, writing 36 in all, and also contributing widely to newspapers.

After a number of specialised books, he took the advice of his publishing editor at Collins, Milton Waldman: "Someone like you who writes a story, should not do little things." This prompted his English saga 1940-1941

series, begun in 1940 to trace his readers against Nazism.

His other titles convey his romanticism: *The Story of England*, *Makers of the Realm*, *The Age of Chivalry*, *The Fire and the Rose*, *Thousand Years of British Monarchy*, *The Spirit of England* (his penultimate book), and so on.

The only vice he admitted was chewing pencils. He coated them with bad-tasting substances to deter himself, unsuccessfully. Late in life he enunciated another lesson of history to get beside his Falklands homily: "If history teaches anything, it is that what is in fashion now will not be in fashion in 50 years."



What really worries Donald is losing another reader...

January 24 1985

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# The shadow of the Dragon

Raymond Williams reviews two strong views of Welsh history and identity

BEFORE we can be sure that the dragon has two tongues, we have to be sure that it is the same dragon. We are about it, look into the natural history of dragons.

Something like this may be happening in the current television series on the history of the Welsh, with which these two books, by the joint presenters, are associated. Its Dragon has Two Tongues title is borrowed from a useful book by Glyn Jones, which explored the complexities of a national literature written in two languages.

Much more is at stake in any general history. What we have so far seen, in the early programmes and now in the books, is an adversarial kind of history, by two Welshmen different from each other, in detail and in general, as could reasonably be hoped. This could be a useful Welsh riposte to the smothering monotony of more assured, more dominating and more complacent traditions.

Yet the dragon itself is still in question. There it is, with its forked or arrowed tongue, on the jacket of Vaughan-Thomas's book. The cover reassures us that "Wales is a Principality close to England, geographically and politically, but it is also very diverse."

This is smoke, not flame. The use of "Principality" for the whole country begs the key question of the long division and contrast between Principality and Wales. Yet in its framework for a Prince, already provided from elsewhere, it interlocks neatly with the significant name-change to "United Kingdom" now being nationalised by officials and businessmen. Who knows what is Welsh or Wales when all is UK

When was Wales? by Gwyn A. Williams (Black Raven Press, £12.95).  
Wales: a history by Winford Vaughan-Thomas (Michael Joseph, £12.95).

of Yookay? Will there be Yookayans yet?

One of the central advantages of being born and bred among the presumed Welsh is the profusion of official identities. Wales and Monmouthshire, as it was for me at school, with special force since we lived in the appendage. England-and-Wales: that administrative, legal and even weather-forecasting area. Wales for rugby but All-England for cricket. Welsh Wales and English Wales. Wales and Cymru. To anyone looking for an official status it was a nightmare. To anyone trying to live in it was a blessing: a native gift.

These alternative responses inform these two books. For Vaughan-Thomas there is an assured Welsh identity and history, strong enough to include the pre-Celts and pre-Celts. For Gwyn Williams there is a long process of dislocation and remaking and dislocation again. The necessary distinction is between a story and a history.

Vaughan-Thomas is a skilful raconteur, with strong feelings for the physical land of Wales. The warm phrases and anecdotes, some of which I have to say, maddened me even in elementary school, come through with the geniality which most others have found persuasive. And then there is the balance of the book, over two hundred and sixty pages, on the extraordinary and shattering events

since the 1920s. No reader should be in any doubt about what kind of book, and what kind of historical preference, this is.

On the other hand a one-volume general history, by the leading historian of industrial Wales, brings problems and questions. Some of these are semantic: that is, central. Wales, in Gwyn Williams's argument, and as its Old English name for the land of foreigners suggests, came into existence in the ninth and tenth centuries "as a junior partner in a British run by England."

The British and other peoples — the others almost certainly a majority — who had previously lived in that land went through a long and still unfinished process of naming and being renamed; at times pulling back into an internally contested Cymric unity; at times, as around the Tudor Court, believing that they had recovered England for Britain and the British, and actually naming the British Empire.

Then, in the Industrial Revolution, an actual British nation, a working unitary social order, emerged and for two centuries succeeded, leaving the Welsh — again redefining themselves — at a disadvantage. It is a question about definitions well before events and dates. I find this a very useful history of the Welsh now available. It is especially strong from the medieval period onwards, and in the modern period with considerable reservation, remarkable. Where I wanted most to ask further questions was in the earlier periods, where a professional historian is most

limited by the extreme, scarcity of evidence.

There is a reasonable scepticism about the simplest versions of "the Celts," but there are important structural similarities between their kind of military invasion and domination and the three much better recorded later cases of what many Welshmen are reluctant to admit is the same kind of event: Roman, English and Norman. Within a perspective of "the Welsh" or indeed "Wales," this is obviously difficult to handle. Much of the surviving Welsh identity has been in a Celtic language. Yet there is apparent physical and material evidence that the real history of this people, so confused by shifting names, begins in that relatively early period, beyond all the current ideologies.

The bravest chapter of Williams's Wales is the exploration of the realities of the long Roman and post-Roman periods. Social and economic analysis, on admittedly scarce evidence, begins to underwrite the simple tales of kings and saints. The opening to Europe, as again in the epoch of the Marches, is Gwyn Williams's basic perspective. It is a perspective that can be shared by all those who in loyalty to their own actual people refuse to assimilate to singular and romantic national traditions.

The possible reservation? That we are invited to agree that we are "now nothing but a naked people under an acid rain." It is a condition being offered, indeed worked at, but the strength of this book, and other difficult but real kinds of strength, are evidence that it is being refused and can be surpassed.



Brett in 1970, aged 86

## Getting beyond tragedy

Emma Tennant on the lives of two New Women

BRETT — or The Brett, as she was sipping called by Frieda Lawrence — was a deaf, mousy, mixed-up girl, fatuously in love first with John Middleton Murry, then most tempting offer to her late in life was that if he was unable to find a prostitute and his wife continued to be ill, then she could come and look after him. Second was D. H. Lawrence, by whom Brett was as billeted as by the poet sampled in the mountains of New Mexico where she and the great writer and his wife enjoyed, if that is the word for it, a ménage à quatre: "Lorenzo," Frieda, Brett and Toby her ear-trumpet.

In Ravelli, on one of the mystic wanderings undertaken to find the blood that beats beneath the rock, Lawrence went into Brett's room, lay in her bed, but walked out after a few minutes, saying her pulse was wrong. Poor Brett — Artists and Intellectuals were hard to please, as was discovered by many of the contemporary Popular Belles.

Nevertheless, Brett's life story emerged as a triumph as does that of Valentine Ackland, the unconfident, lesbian poet friend and lover of Sylvia Townsend Warner.

Both women suffered from almost insurmountable self-doubt. In the case of Valentine Ackland, a woman and an artist in the great age of uncertainty, when from a blazing bustle and a head of hair like a hedge pinned and plaited in a daily torture, the New Woman rose like a thunderbolt. Eton-cropped, trousered, thin. But how people laughed! And both came from a "comfortable" background, which in the case of

Brett: From Bloomsbury to New Mexico, by Sean Hignett (Hodder, £14.95).  
For Sylvia: An Honest Account, by Valentine Ackland (Chatto, £8.95).

"Loulou" Harcourt, a friend of Lord Escher, and as Brett was to discover in one of those throwings-together that make one suspect some hidden pat, was able to detect the assaulter of Edward James as well: he of the great collection of Surrealist pictures, and settler for a time in New Mexico a cote de chez Brett.

From these ghastly ashes, then, rose a painter of talent, wit and distinction. After years which had to contain worship of Lady Ottoline, mystical guilty communion with the ghost of Katherine Mansfield, tense tequilas with the Lawrences, Brett lived on to the age of 84 and died in 1977, photographs showing her happily painting in her cabin which she named The Tower Beyond Tragedy.

Valentine Ackland didn't live so long, yet this testimony of her early years, suffering and drinking to overcome her feelings of inadequacy, her finding of the love of Sylvia Townsend Warner after a frightening first marriage, and subsequent life in Dorset, worshipping the Powys family, is by far the strongest of the two books. Over-scrupulous about her failings, acutely perceptive of the world about her, Valentine Ackland was a brilliant writer; and this "confession," written when after 19 years of domestic happiness she decided to live with a new American lover (it moved to work cleverly Sylvia moved out of their home at Frome, leaving even her cats and books behind and the American was sent back again) is really a short novel of very high standing indeed.

In Brett's case — and we are provided with a spine-chilling picture — the touch-up was

## More or less

by Peter Vansittart

Thomas More, by Richard Marius (Dent, £16.95).

"A RENAISSANCE man acquainted with a wide range of knowledge, he believed that a few great ideas gave meaning to life. They happened to be those of medieval ideas and when they were thrown out, he could and did descend into despair, hatred and murderous rage. A devoted and generous friend, he could also be an ugly and implacable enemy... not altogether admirable."

Until recently, More was romanticised by a reputation for genial humour, courage, humanity and for being one of the great storytellers between Chaucer and Shakespeare. Yet the humour could be tart, scatalogical, hysterical, his courage absent almost to the end, his concern for poverty and injustice scarcely pronounced. Politically, he was an ineffective time-server, praising Henry VIII at Caesar's expense for some paltry military nonsense, by our values, presenting no saint but an ironic, sometimes baffling play-actor, with conflicts seething beneath external calm. His sensuality, struggling against asceticism, worldliness with terror, the death which he finally overcame with never-forgotten effect. "It may be said that he did not die for what he believed, but for what he wanted to believe. More indeed speculates whether his intolerant polemics concealed atheistical murmuring, more common in the hooligan sixteenth century than is sometimes admitted."

Whatever his secrets, More always suffered from a vividly right, even elementary justice, to the larger good, seeing centralised authority, work discipline as essential ramparts against sin and social and spiritual decay. The stake was thus "lawful, necessary, and well done." Marius's own passing opinions can be disputable. "Sailors are not customarily imaginative men." "The English people have been notoriously uninterested in the virtues of the defeated. Surely absurd." The White Rose League will jib at his praise of More's Richard III. But, never claiming to fully explain More, he offers a plausible, full length study of a very product of the ferment and terror whose own flawed charm and worried wit still persist. A man, More wrote, can lose his head and come to no harm.

## Two American innocents abroad

Julia O'Faolain reviews some of the week's new fiction

HANDSOME is as handsome does, and this in Alison Lurie's books is rarely well. In her latest one a character who seemed good and beautiful turns out to be a monster and monsters reveal hidden grace. This recalls the story of the frog prince, a fable about illusion whose thrust is liberal and optimistic. So, under a sparkle of satire, is Lurie's novel.

Foreign Affairs is about two American academics on sabbatical in London. Vinnie Miner is here to collect play-ground rhymes and it is these rhymes that carry the novel, which is a parody on an up-date of James Angell's and Anglophobia are knowingly mocked and Lurie's wit unleashed most mercilessly on such minor characters as the Vogels, a smug, critical and appallingly true-to-life couple from California.

Vinnie's story is handled with more feeling. She has meanwhile become incongruously entangled with a



Alison Lurie

Foreign Affairs, by Alison Lurie (Michael Joseph, £8.95).  
The Duchess's Diary, by Robin Chapman (Faber, £8.95).  
Star Turn, by Nigel Williams (Faber, £9.95).

Hyde when Lady Rosemary's hold on reality turns out to be frail.

Fred, tiring of her meretricious theatricality, will return in the end to his honest photographer and Yankee values triumph in what turns out to be a parody on an up-date of James Angell's and Anglophobia are knowingly mocked and Lurie's wit unleashed most mercilessly on such minor characters as the Vogels, a smug, critical and appallingly true-to-life couple from California.

Vinnie's story is handled with more feeling. She has meanwhile become incongruously entangled with a

sanitary engineer from Tulsa equipped with a see-through mac, cowboy gear and a vocabulary to match: an ugly American whose beauty does not meet the eye — but then remember the frog prince. Lurie ingeniously extends her novel's scope and resonance by a play of literary echoes, and if her English characters are a shade thin and her whimsy smacks of the school yard — as when Fred's wife calls the British Museum or BM "the Bowl Movement" — her zest, pace and inventiveness make up generously for this. Foreign Affairs fixes with the didactic paradox of fairytale as its handsome writing wins assent for a plain message.

The Duchess's Diary deals with illusion and, like the Don, a little of the wit of Lurie, Robin Chapman makes use of the oddly thrilling power of intertextual echo. Maribel, the duchess, is a character from Cervantes's Don Quixote and, like the Don, a little of the wit of Lurie, Robin Chapman makes use of the oddly thrilling power of intertextual echo. Maribel, the duchess, is a character from Cervantes's Don Quixote and, like the Don, a little of the wit of Lurie, Robin Chapman makes use of the oddly thrilling power of intertextual echo.

diary. An astounding piece of prose, it evokes the "reality" from which Cervantes spun part of his novel, anatomises the relations between fiction and reality, and describes her efforts to escape her gossamer. In the process an entire society is convincingly evoked through the heightened perceptions of an astute, imaginative and sensitive woman. The new edition of this brief, brilliant book is very welcome.

Star Turn is, as its blurb warns, ambitious. It is also disappointing. This is not for want of invention or intelligence, and what it lacks — life and a feel for character — is notoriously hard to assess with objectivity. I can only report that in the course of its 314 pages was rarely amused by the author's own good ideas. It is narrated by the most unreliable of narrators, a mendacious propagandist who, while working for the Ministry of Information during World War Two, has been in the habit of inventing or twisting the truth to suit his own purposes. The book is a masterpiece of self-deception, and the reader is left with a sense of the author's own dishonesty.

## Malekula, 1926

by Hugh Brody

Footprints on Malekula. A Memoir of Bernard Deacon, by Margaret Gardiner, with a preface by Rodney Needham and an introduction by Peter Gathercole (Salamander Press, £8.95).

ANTHROPOLOGY grew from speculative theories of human evolution into passionate engagement with the struggles and extraordinary truths of tribal life. This growth of passion is inseparable from the anthropologist's espousal of "field work," a horrible term that refers, at its best, to one of the most daunting and inspiring of experiences: submergence of oneself in another people's way of life, a readiness to begin at the societal beginnings and, childlike, learn a new language, grapple with the utterly unfamiliar... How anthropologists have

gone about this task, what they felt about it, and how they changed them, have played very little part in anthropological writings. The experience of some of the greatest extremes of travel (how true and how false) is hidden, even more so is the intricate relationship between the personal and social-scientific that in the end, conditions what most anthropologists do choose to write about.

In 1926 Bernard Deacon went to Malekula, an island in the New Hebrides. This was his first field trip as a young anthropologist, fresh from Cambridge. In the weeks before leaving for this work, Deacon discovered that he

was at the very edge of being in love with Margaret Gardiner, who was then a Cambridge undergraduate herself. She was already in love with him.

For the following thirteen months Deacon wrote to Margaret Gardiner, and she has now published these letters, along with her reactions to them, in Footprints on Malekula. The letters are powerful and poignant testimonies to the contradictory feelings by which Deacon was engulfed: he struggles to understand Malekulan society and his feelings for Margaret, and these struggles lead him to every other kind of question. These letters say everything about the excitement and pain of fieldwork.

In the letters two things become clear: Deacon's extraordinary intellectual breadth (and this far beyond his promise as a brilliantly successful Cambridge stu-

dent), and his resolve to share his life with Margaret Gardiner. But as he was waiting for the steamer on which he would leave the New Hebrides, Deacon died of black-water fever. He was twenty-four. Footprints on Malekula creates a terrible sense of possibilities, in work and in love.

Margaret Gardiner ends the book with a description of her life with Margaret. It is a brief, and is full of strength. It has passages of new anthropology, giving a sense of Malekulans today (Deacon and others had supposed the people would simply die out, and could well have been longer, but the quest for the whole: it left me reeling, wanting far, far more — both of Deacon's letters and of Gardiner's reactions to them at the time.

## Of art and showbiz

The Oxford Companion to American Theatre, by Gerald Boardman (Oxford, £25).

COMPULSIVE dips, theatre buffs and critics will get boundless pleasure out of this fat, compendious volume with its 3,000 entries. In spite of its title, it shows a strong bias towards Broadway rather than off-Broadway or the regions. What makes it valuable are its plot summaries and pointed comments on just about every play ever achieved a commercial run in New York.

Sometimes the focus on popularity rather than aesthetic quality leads to odd distortions: a forgotten piece of trivia like Any Wednesday, a 1964 comedy about a tax-deductible mistress, gets more space than Mamet's American Buffalo or Lanford Wilson's The Fifth of July (a play that should be done here). But the book's tawdry of

period kitsch produces some memorable entries. But the book manages to combine sound critical comment ("Agnes de Mille's work tended to be less razor-sharp or striking than Balanchine's, less humor-filled than Robbins'") with a fascinating picture of the volatile American stage. Interesting to note that there were far more Shakespearean revivals around the turn of the century.

Fact-fanciers will be keen to know that Abie's Irish Rose was kept going with the help of gangster-money, that P. T. Barnum used to promote his circus by having a man in Oriental costume plough a field with an elephant, that W. C. Fields regularly performed a dentist-sketch in which he took a shotgun to a bird flying out of a patient's beard and that David Merrick published a book in 1964 about a young woman to climb on stage and slap an actor.

Michael Billington

Matthew Coady's



## DOCK BRIEFS

WITH Death at Charity's Point (Crime Club, £7.50) William G. Tappley evokes that confident era in which modum writers revelled in fooling their readers. He starts with a straightforward question: did a dollar-rich matriarch's teacher son hurl himself from a cliff top or was he thrown? The family lawyer's search for the truth, through a posh prep school and the embers of collegiate America's radical break-out, follows a stereotypical path but does it with verve. And it provides a trip through the mystery story maze which sets a stiff standard for the class of 1985. The book has already won a US prize and in Attorney Brady Coyne a new, engaging and clearly durable series hero emerges fully fledged from Mr Tappley's typewriter.

Seven Steps to Treason, by Michael Martland (Hodder, £8.95). — Links events in Vietnam with planning of secret ops in present day Vienna. KGB puts screws on British diplomat by kidnapping his daughter. Smacks of Cold War soap opera. Hard to "turn off" though.

Patterns in the Dust, by W. J. Grant-Adams (Faber, £8.95). — Cossip column hackette confronts murder in sort of village Dame Agatha loved. Lots of complications under placid bourgeois surface. Bit short on bravura but a promising starter.

Out of the Blackout, by Robert Barnard (Crime Club, £7.50). — Hero, dispossessed of true identity in wartime evacuation, digs for his roots in haunts of latter-day Fascists. Heir to twist but art of coincidence is wrangled out of its socket.

Wycliffe and the Four Jacks, by W. J. Burley (Gollancz, £7.95). — The poison dart strikes again! Eponymous hero in case of prapric novel: under death threat. Combines sober face of police procedural with dotty improbability against the odds, brings it off.

## Educated in Marxism

V. G. Kiernan on Stalinism and anti-communism

"AND none so poor to do him reverence," said Mark Antony over the corpse of Caesar, a friend of Stalin, if he had one, might say of him since Khrushchev's "secret speech" three years after the dictator's death.

The speech is one of the scores of texts in Tariq Ali's illuminating collection, they present various points of view, at generous length, adding up to well over 500 pages. They are concerned with politics rather than economics and a thoughtful introduction reminds us that while Stalinism meant political regression it was accompanied by expended production and a strengthening of the social gains of the revolution. Among the observers brought together to give their judgments on the Soviet Union are Trotsky, Deutscher, and Mandel.

Another group of studies is concerned with five countries of eastern Europe. The most topical of these, by Oliver MacDonal on Poland and the rise and fall of Solidarity, stands out. Here too there is stress on a background of achievement, like east European workers prize to maintain, like job security, stable prices, relative social equality.

Polish "workers" were making a genuinely heroic collective effort to find a way to add democracy to socialism. It founded on the heterogeneous membership of the movement, and lack of political direction.

Problems of a different sort are raised by three studies of Asian countries, India, China and Vietnam, where Communist tasks were complicated by struggles for national freedom. In the Indian case there was failure to fuse the two things.

Fundamentally the reason must be that the Far East was ripe for radical change, India was not; but Moscow

The Stalinist Legacy. Its Impact on Twentieth Century World Politics, ed. Tariq Ali (Penguin, £4.95).

The Socialist Register 1984, ed. Ralph Miliband, John Saville, Marcel Liebman (Merlin Press, £12.50, paper £5.50).

guidance was often as unhelpful as it is depicted here, and helped to inspire a series of follies and misunderstandings. Indian Communists, one of them — K Damodaran — told Tariq Ali in an interview in 1974, "we're not seriously educated in Marxism," and hence depended for ideas on the "party elders," themselves dependent on Moscow. Two sections of the volume somewhat apart from the rest are about scientific issues such as the Lysoenko controversy, and Solzhenitsyn. Daniel Singer goes out lucidly the disharmony between the novelist's graphic description of real evils, and the wildly unreal and reactionary ideology which helped him "to godsend for the conservatives of the Western world."

Tariq Ali's witnesses criticise the worst aspects of communism from mainly socialist positions; the Socialist Register, focusing this year its theme, 21st, on this theme, provides a complementary investigation of anti-communist propaganda from the right wing. This has come to play a large part everywhere in conservative thinking or talking and presents, as Miliband and Liebman say in their opening remarks, "a highly distorted picture."

The editors have assembled a fittingly international team of contributors, with Americans, Canadians, and Europeans. Among these last is Francois Houtart, of the

Catholic University of Louvain, joint-author of some remarkable recent books on religion in Asia; his essay on Catholic attitudes brings out their diversity. John Saville writes trenchantly on Ernest Bevin, as the evil genius of the post-war Labour government; he singles out in particular Bevin's aid to the French in their attempt to recover possession of Indochina, enough by itself among that government's doings to rank as "a major national shame of the British people."

Two American scholars find in anti-communism the chief source of their country's foreign policies today, some what understating perhaps the part still played by simple capitalist greed. Alan Wolfe believes that it was originally taken up by politicians for tactical motives, but its makers or their heirs have come to be its prisoners.

Among the most impressive articles is Jon Halliday's, carefully documented one on the Korean War, which he says badly needs to be rescued from oblivion because "it was the great turning point of the post-1945 world." His account includes some details soberly weighed of a reign of terror in South Korea.

It is the most macabre feature of "Western" behaviour since 1945 that it has combined so much sanctimonious self-congratulation with a ferocity, a blind frenzy of destruction, scarcely matched in history since the times of the Huns or the Mongols.

Digging Deeper, essays on the miners' strike, edited by Ben Benyon, is to be published by Verso in March. And the novel Before the Storm, translated by R. J. Halliday, which Oxford will publish this Spring, is by Theodor Fontane.

## Gnome guard

by Dennis Barker

The Swiss Army (La Place de la Concorde Suisse), by John McPhee (Faber, £8.95).

NEVER knew there was a Swiss Army? Understandable. Received wisdom is that Switzerland has avoided two world wars and will avoid a third because of the surrounding mountains and a complete lack of any military teeth which might aggravate any nearby power. It is true about the mountains, not about the rest.

The truth, as John McPhee well establishes in The Swiss Army, is diametrically opposite. Switzerland has what is

called The Porcupine Principle: attack no one, but prepare to make life hell for anyone who attacks you. It has a thoroughly trained conscript army four times the size of the British Army. Its Alps are covered in airstrips from which attacks could be repelled. Its bridges and passes are both mined and constantly covered by enormous guns and missiles that could wipe out any invader. Military headquarters are in bomb-proof mountains. McPhee is a New Yorker writer. That is to say, he is a style-conscious wordsmith, given to staccato sentences and a rhetorical incontinence of place and other proper

names. This approach perhaps works better in a short piece than in a book, even a short one based on personal encounters rendered down to an impressionistic sketch pad.

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At Opec they clearly have got a different class of press relations from HMG



NOTEBOOK

Edited by Hamish McRae

STERLING'S petro-currency status was duly demonstrated yesterday by the boot up of the bottom from Saudi Arabia.

considering the \$24 a barrel cut in the oil price does not make sense in precisely the terms it was written, as it would narrow Opec differentials between various grades of crude to vanishing point. But clearing a significant cut is being mooted for the timing and the playing of the story suggests a top Saudi source. As it is the effect of the story, aside from such trifles as knocking more than 20 points off the FT index, pushing the pound down a cent, and adding a per cent to money market rates, has put the frighteners back on the oil spot market. So without actually doing anything, yet, Opec has succeeded in demonstrating its authority in the oil market. No one should now assume that Opec is dead set against an oil price cut.

Until a week or so ago, Opec might have seen its way to avoiding this. But the recent hard weather on both sides of the Atlantic has not increased spot prices by as much as Opec must have hoped. So a cut is on the cards.

The question for Britain, then, is whether to take the impact of this on the chin and allow some further depreciation of sterling, or whether to allow the sort of movement we saw yesterday on the money markets to push base rates up yet again. By rights now, the bank base rates should be 12 1/2 or 13 per cent.

It seems sensible to assume the first instinct of the authorities this time will again be to allow some further depreciation of sterling. To do otherwise would be seen to be defending a particular rate. But again there would clearly be a panic level, when the interest rate

weapon would be allowed to set. On the slightly doubtful assumption that the authorities will not make the same mistake three times—twice is enough—we might even see them permitting a small (i.e. 1 per cent or less) rise in base rates before anything dreadful happened to sterling on the stitch in time principle.

At any rate, it certainly seems just as likely that the next movement in base rates will be up, as they will be down.

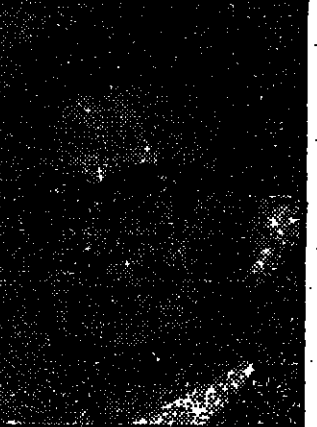
JOHN FAIRFAX, one of Australia's most public media figures, has duly entered the British publishing arena, by purchasing that quintessentially English magazine, the Spectator.

Bank of Scotland in national computer link

Big four beaten on home banking service

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

Bank of Scotland has leapt ahead of its competitors with a new home banking system which allows customers to operate their bank accounts from their living rooms, using a TV set linked to the British Telecom Prestel network. It can also be used by small businesses for cash management, and by owners of home computers.



Bruce Patullo: In the lead

statements; and they can transfer money between different accounts, for example between current accounts which pay no interest and a new investment account which pays three different levels of interest depending on the amount deposited. One advantage is that surplus funds can be removed from a current to an interest-earning account each day.

PanAm orders Rolls engines

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S state-owned aircraft engine maker, Rolls Royce, has clinched a share of the prestigious \$240 million order from the US Airline giant, Pan American, for aero engines on its new fleet of European Airbus jetliners.

BP pays £25.5m for rejected block

By John Hooper, Energy Correspondent

BP has paid a record £25.5 million for part of a block in the North Sea which Shell and Esso gave up seven years ago.

SGT warrants raid backfires

By Mary Brasier

Disgruntled investors in Sterling Guarantee Trust yesterday attempted to mount a stock market raid on SGT share warrants in order to force better terms for warrant holders under the proposed merger with P & O.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US warns market cheats

THE REAGAN administration served notice yesterday that it would take a tough stand against countries that violated US trade laws in high technology and other markets.

World Bank lowers loan pledge target

From Alex Brummer, Washington

The World Bank said yesterday that it was lowering its target for new loan commitments to the developing countries in the current financial year, despite continuing capital shortages in many developing countries.

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Jobless up in EEC

Unemployment in the European community rose to a new peak last month of 13 million

with a further 146,000 people joining the dole queues, the community's statistics agency Eurostat said yesterday.

Dee's Booker bid gets go-ahead

By Mary Brasier

The ambitious expansion plans of Dee Corporation, the country's fourth largest supermarket group, were given the all clear yesterday when the Monopolies Commission approved its £232 million bid for Booker McConnell.

CBI claims growth is at risk

By Christopher Huhne, Economics Editor

Leaders of the Confederation of British Industry warned yesterday that jobs and growth were at risk next year unless the Chancellor reversed his recent changes in company taxation.

New US Treasury Secretary backed

From Alex Brummer, Washington

foreign exchange markets to stem the rise of the dollar. Mr Baker gained the Treasury job after a highly unusual job swap with the current incumbent Mr Donald Regan. He appeared before the Senate on a day when there was further good economic news for the Reagan Administration.

Liberalise trade plea

By John Hooper, Trade Correspondent

Only a concerted effort to further liberalise trade can ensure that the world makes a sustained recovery from the recession, says a report from the influential Trade Policy Research Centre published today.

Dee's Booker bid gets go-ahead

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Profit up at Fiat

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Another European car manufacturer, AB Volvo of Sweden, 87 per cent of whose cars are expected, also reported a substantial 1984 profit increase yesterday, with pre-tax earnings almost doubling to 7.6 billion kronor (£745 million).

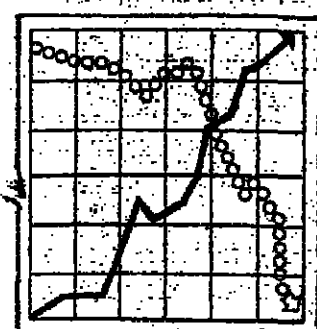






# FINANCIAL GUARDIAN

## Blunt axe approach is no longer credible



### ECONOMICS

Christopher Huhne

PIGS MAY fly. Mr Nigel Lawson may emerge from the dark portals of Treasury chambers to hand out lollipops to passing school children. Mrs Thatcher may develop a sense of humour. All these things are more likely than the prospect of the Government actually meeting the expenditure plans it has laid before Parliament this week.

A philosophy tutor once tried to explain to me why the fact that the sun had risen every morning for as long as anyone could remember did not mean that it would rise tomorrow. But, as the economists say, it is nevertheless a fair bet.

For the same reason, it is a fair bet that the rise in total public spending after allowing for inflation is not going to stop between now and the time that the Chancellor intends to hand out a cumulative £10 billion in tax cuts before the next election.

When Mr Lawson was a thriving young Treasury Minister, trying to make a reputation by delivering speeches in Zurich without the approval of the Chancellor, he used to enjoy pointing to a "porcupine chart" which showed how optimistic previous governments had been about growth when they came to set their spending plans. The graph shows a revised version of the "porcupine chart" which shows how optimistic Mr Lawson's government has been about its cash plans for public spending.

The chart is expressed in cash, because the Treasury now plans public spending in cash rather than in the pounds of one particular year, then updated to allow for price changes since that time. But let us be even

fairer to the Government and work out what has really happened to public spending in real terms — after allowing for the general rise in prices through the economy, although of course not allowing for the particular rise in the costs of public spending.

Even the Government's figures show that the planning total is expected to have increased in real terms by 9.5 per cent between 1978-9 and this financial year 1984-5. The official figures, though, deduct from the planning total the sales of any public assets in that year, on the dubious grounds that such sales are negative public expenditure. And that is a revenue source like any other. If the asset sales are excluded, the real rise is 11.2 per cent.

Just how likely the Government is to meet its plans is revealed by the startling contrast between the past and present expectations. The average real increase in the (asset sales adjusted) planning total since 1978-9 has been 1.8 per cent a year.

Indeed, there was not a single year when the Government managed to reduce public spending in real terms. Yet the said planning total is now expected to fall by 1 per cent next year, 0.7 per cent in 1986-7 and to rise by only 0.1 per cent in 1987-8. And that is assuming that the entire contingency reserve is spent in each case — so there isn't much leeway.

How is it that public spending has gone on rising, when all you read in the newspapers (especially the Guardian) is about cuts? A small part of the answer is that the Government plans cuts, but gets rises. It is very good at sticking to its budgeting totals for the future years. It is not so good at sticking to them in the year in question.

A more important part of the answer is that most programmes have in fact been cut back hard to make way for a small number of big ticket growth items like social security, law and order and defence (though even these last two are to fall in real terms over the planning period ahead).

Another reason is that even a real growth in some programmes — notably health and social security — is not necessarily enough to keep up with the growing demands of increasing numbers of employed, young and old age pensioners, the

standard of service or benefit per head has, can, and probably will fall.

For exactly these reasons, the process of trying to meet the Treasury's targets — and even of missing them — is going to be extremely painful to a lot of people dependent on the public sector, notably teachers, construction workers, health service ancillaries, the sick who will have to pay higher prescription charges, and anyone who has to pay a gas, electricity or water bill.

A lot of spending cuts are in fact — and look as if they are planned to be — backdoor tax increases: what we pay with one hand we are to get back in income tax cuts with the other. If we are lucky enough to be in work on the idiotic assumption that what motivates us is not the purchasing power of our earnings but merely the cash left in the pay packet after direct taxes.

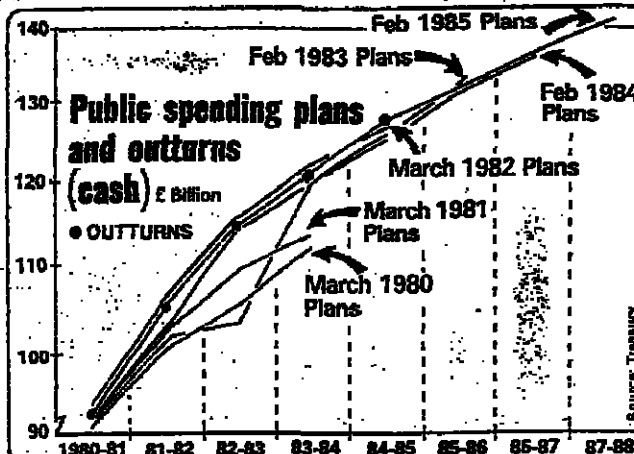
Evidently, the Chancellor has precious little faith in British common sense if he really believes that this sort of "tax cut" is going to improve incentives.

The implications of the spending course which the Chancellor has charted for himself — or anything near it — are admirably spelt out in the National Institute discussion paper by Malcolm Levitt and Michael Joyce. Their scenario A, which assumes no change in total spending through to 1988-4, is uncannily similar to government plans. It certainly allows scope for tax cuts as spending falls as a proportion of growing national income, but it also implies real political and social trouble.

For a start, the gap between earnings for those in work and social security benefits for those out of work and pensioners increases steadily as benefits rise only in line with prices. So much for one nation Toryism.

Secondly, the gap between private and public sector earnings could widen by as much as 17 per cent, when our public sector workers are already paid relatively less than in other European countries. That implies a substantial political and economic risk, since it was after the last such compression of public earnings that wages exploded in 1978-9.

The political risks, indeed, go wider, for the Chancellor's plans, in their best, to alienate both wings of his



party even in the short term. Public investment is again sharply cut, outraging the "Wets". But defence spending, and order also come under the axe for the first time, which is unlikely to please the Empire loyalist wing which the Prime Minister has so far been able to add to her "economists" to form her right wing majority.

Perhaps even more important is the impression which will be created outside Parliament. As Sir Keith Joseph's attempt to acquire a reputation for the well-heeled shows — or indeed the backlash in BBC world service spending to protect the aid budget — the Government can rapidly acquire a reputation for trifling, petty and mean-minded savings which in the long term can do real damage to its public standing.

It is indicative, for example, that the latest Gallup poll in the Daily Telegraph showed a substantial increase in the number of people who believe that the Conservatives look after the interests of the rich, not ordinary people (64 per cent now agree) and don't care what hardships their policies cause (similarly 64 per cent agree).

It is not at all clear that even the minority of people who can guarantee the Conservatives an election victory under the current system really want their children's education and their health care to deteriorate for the sake of income tax cuts.

In short, we are getting to the end of the road which began with the IMF-imposed spending cuts under the last Labour government. The blunt axe approach to spending is no longer likely to work, however much disguised it may be by rhetoric about greater efficiency. The rhetoric merely gives genuine efficiency savings a bad name.

If the Chancellor and his bewildered Chief Secretary are to make headway on public spending, they will have to think far more radically about improving the

administration of the public service, and showing that real standards can be maintained despite savings.

In some areas, it should now be difficult. At the Ministry of Defence, the budget is planned to increase by 30 per cent in real terms between 1978-9 and 1985-6 yet its fighting forces were by only 7,200 in April of last year compared with the total of 228,000. And there is nothing right wing about getting value for money.

The second area to look at is the fastest growing item of public spending, yet it does not appear in the planning total on the spurious grounds that the Government cannot control interest rates. Net interest payments on the national debt have risen from £2,204 million in 1978-9 to an estimated £8,500 million this year — a real rise after allowing for general inflation of 116.5 per cent.

This has occurred despite a fall in the borrowing requirement largely because of the Government's tight monetary and high interest rate policy, so to that extent it has made the bed it lies in.

Without changing its interest rate policy, however, it could substantially reduce these servicing costs by converting national debt into indexed linked securities.

In that way, a large part of the interest payments which are, at a time of inflation, a compensation for the loss of the lenders' principal would be postponed, and some real savings given for a more expansionary budgetary policy which could stimulate growth and jobs — and reduce that social security bill.

At present, the Chancellor is locked in a vicious circle where his logic implies that he can only get tax cuts if he gets growth, and hence reduces spending and borrowing as a share of national income. Yet he is not likely to get enough growth unless he cuts taxes and relaxes his spending curbs. Index-linking the national debt could provide a way out of his impasse.

## Inflationary pressure is set to burst through



### INVESTMENT

Robin Stoddart

HALF a century of continuous inflation might almost have come to an end last year. That is what share markets worldwide have been celebrating. The slight dip in living costs in December helped to keep Britain from slipping out like a sore thumb among competing industrial nations who have got price increases back down to negligible proportions. But they stand to gain from lower oil prices.

All the pain is being borne by those least able to complain, as in nearly every country now. The justification, if there is one, is that full-blooded capitalism creates wealth fastest, as in Hong Kong.

Hope springs eternal, even in Britain's motor and engineering industry, but the reality of recovery is far more evident in Germany, as well as of course as in the United States and the Far East. That is because mass production has been maintained in every other industrialised country. In that way costs are kept down and the exchange rate reasonably stable.

There is no longer any doubt about the durability of the economic revival in the United States, which underwrites the recovery in most countries with strong export trade. President Reagan's luck and economic successes could continue for most of his second term of office. All that is needed is a fall in the dollar, which could be brought about by lower interest rates with further beneficial effect all round.

If ever the advantages of going into debt were manifest, they are in the US, but the American fully-valued, makes basic savings look quite mundane, even at current high interest returns. Although international and exchange-rate factors, as well as the massive transfer of income back to corporate, private-sector profit, provide strong justification for the long-running bull market, all such things not only come to an end, but are, in part, reversed.

A finely-tuned budget, taking a million or more lower-paid workers out of the income tax net, might help to preserve the favourable balance between light and gloom, or recovery and slump, at least enough to keep the City happy. Foreigners on the other hand, must often be aware that they are selling more to Britain than they have any intention of buying and that there is considerable doubt therefore about how long the bills can be paid, the situation in less developed countries is still worse, however. Mrs Thatcher is firmly ensconced in power and if it is difficult to see quite what has been achieved on the national scale so far, at least the counter-inflationary intention is there. That, at any rate is the City's view.

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## THE DAY IN POLITICS

### Labour's short list

By Martin Linton

THE NEXT general secretary of the Labour Party will be chosen next week from a shortlist of seven candidates that was approved by the National Executive Committee yesterday.

The final choice is likely to be between Mr Larry Whitty, research officer at the General and Municipal Workers' Union, Mrs Joyce Gould, the Labour Party's assistant secretary, Mrs Helen Liddell, the party's Scottish Secretary.

Mr Whitty, aged 41, will be the clear front runner, enjoying the support of Mr Neil Kinnock, the party's leader, and probably a number of trade union votes, because

of his background in the unions, both at the TUC and as head of research for Mr Denis Healey, the party's last general secretary.

But he may be quite closely challenged by Mrs Liddell, aged 34, the party's senior officer in Scotland, who is a former journalist and has worked for the Scottish TUC. She is joined on the shortlist by Mr Jimmy

Allison, the Scottish organiser of the party who is one of the party's most experienced speakers.

Mrs Gould, aged 52, is the party's campaigns officer and chief women's officer as well as being assistant national agent and the only internal candidate from the party headquarters.

The head of the employ-

ment and economics division of the London Borough of Lewisham, Mr Shaili Ince, aged 47, is also on the shortlist, with Mr Harold Timworth, aged 36, head of corporate planning at the London Borough of Haringey, and Mr Roger Ward, aged 37, a researcher and official of the white collar union, ASTMS.

### 'Rally to fund campaign'

By Martin Linton

The Labour Party is being urged to play a bigger role in the campaign for a "yes" vote in the trade union ballots on political funds because of their vital importance to the party's finances.

The campaign organised by the trade unions will concentrate on the constitutional issues of the freedom of trade unions to take political action and their right to be represented in Parliament while playing down the issue of affiliation to the Labour Party.

In a letter to the general secretary of the Labour Party yesterday, the Labour Co-ordination Committee, a left-wing pressure group, calls on the party to take a far more vigorous part in the campaign.

It points out that not only union interests are at stake. "The very viability of the Labour Party is threatened by the ballots and any loss of union affiliations could be extremely serious," it says.

The committee appoints an officer to co-ordinate the campaign, allocate a budget, organise day schools, use party political broadcasts on television and use all the techniques of elections in the campaign, even involving sympathetic show business stars, it says.

The ballots will be held between April and March of next year and the LCC argues that they can be turned to the Labour Party's advantage to rebuild the party's links with unions at local level, and to use them as a springboard for the next general election.

"The political funds campaign should be used as part of the long haul to the next election," it says. "It gives us an opportunity to argue for Labour at the workplace level in a way that the party has never done before."

But it would be disastrous if the Labour Party intervened in the campaign in a way that was "insensitive or counter-productive."

## Stockton urges policy switch in TV debut

THE ECONOMY

By Colin Brown

The Earl of Stockton urged the Government last night, in the first televised debate from the House of Lords, to reverse its policies to reduce unemployment.

Lord Stockton was warmly cheered by Opposition peers when he called on Government to adopt the reflationary policies of the United States.

"Let us not be the slowest ship in the convoy. We must be the leader — or at any rate, make an attempt to regain the leadership we have had for so long," he said.

"The next generation will be for me but for my successors to make the decision whether we just slowly, majestically sink not perhaps drastically, tragically, but go slowly down like a great ship, or should we make a new bid for survival."

"Let us do the latter and then historians of the future will describe the end of this century as the beginning of a new and glorious renaissance."

Lord Stockton, the former Conservative Prime Minister, Mr Harold Macmillan, spoke in support of a Labour-backed motion to develop economic and social policies which united the nation, created employment rather than reduced taxation, and gave life to national pride in the welfare state with social responsibility rather than self-interest.

Lord Gowrie, the Arts Minister, and the Government spokesman on the economy in the Lords, firmly rejected Opposition demands for more money to be spent on capital schemes to create more jobs. He insisted that Britain would

### Lord Gowrie: 'Growth with falling inflation'

soon be enjoying the longest post-war recovery it had experienced and that the Government had achieved the objective of sustained growth with falling inflation.

"We are quite determined that that record will continue and as recent events have shown we will not hesitate to take whatever action is needed to achieve it."

Both Lord Cledwyn, from the Opposition front bench and Baroness Sear from the SDP Liberal Alliance parties, attacked the "dogma" of the Government's economic policies. Lord Cledwyn said he did not recognise the euphoric scene which had been painted by the Arts Minister.

Lord Stockton said that four years ago the "rather depressing" reign of President Carter came to an end. They were in a similar position to Britain in unemployment was very high (1 in 8) and the economy was falling.

"And then President Reagan gave further cause for celebration. Monetarist gloomsters are unlikely to raise much of a squeak during this period and after failing to appreciate the strength of pre-Christmas demand and that US economic growth was consequently still running at an annual rate of nearly 4 per cent in the last quarter, most economic forecasters there may have to lie low for a while. Occasional predictions of an increase in dollar interest rates to cool growth and the rise in bank lending is still surfacing but they can probably continue to be dismissed."

In the circumstances, more investor attention is bound to be focused on US Treasury bonds offering real returns of nearly 8 per cent above the 4 per cent US inflation rate. While that is two points more than London gilts provide, and tax factors widen the differential still further, for many buyers there is a good chance of a further widespread international advance in stock market prices, though it would have to be accompanied by further falls in interest rates.

Meanwhile, a flattening of the yield curve on United Kingdom gilts, more particularly in the prices of medium-dated stocks offering yields not far short of 12 per cent, is likely. Treasury funding has switched longer, after a lengthy hiatus. Although something of an admission of defeat, this is only commonsense when the interest cost is almost a point lower.

For safety in an uncertain world, however, the attraction of index-linked Treasury stocks is also plain clear. Now that the low December index figure is known and out of the way, buyers of these issues can be sure of another run up in the retail price index.

## Post office closures will hit elderly

COMMONS DEBATE

By Alan Travis

The closure of 78 main post offices and of 800 sub-post offices in the Government's planned shake-up of the service will lead to serious social harm and extra travelling costs for the elderly, the disabled and the parents of small children, Mr John Smith, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said yesterday.

He was speaking in the Commons in an Opposition motion, which called upon the Government to moderate its new financial targets for the Post Office so that "an extensive and socially responsible network of post offices was maintained."

Mr Geoffrey Pattie, the Trade and Industry Minister, replying for the Government, said that the contemplated programme of closures would still leave the largest retail network in the country with 160,000 main post offices and 21,000 sub-post offices. He said only 5 per cent were being closed and he denied that the programme would cause serious social harm.

Mr Smith said that the post office network formed one of the country's most important services, distributing pensions, social security and child and other benefits where ease of access was crucial.

"The heart of this debate is the balancing of social and commercial responsibilities. The Government's financial policies towards the post offices have become so rigorous in enforcing a narrow kind of commercialism that the social responsibility has become subordinate."

He said he could not understand the government's financial demands when the Post Office was heading for a profit of £110 million this year and its customer services alone were heading for a profit of around £12 million.

"We are not asking the Government for some outrageous increase in public expenditure but only for a moderate increase in the targets for the customer services section of the Post Office."

Mr Pattie claimed that Labour had closed more post offices in its last five years of government than the Conservative Government since 1979.

He said that the new financial arrangements were needed for greater efficiency and they would not be a major mark-up in the post office's profits.

All the closures contemplated were in urban areas, none were in rural areas.

Certain inner city areas had seen a substantial reduction in their population but had not had a proportionate reduction in their post offices while new ones had opened in areas of expanding population.

Mr Pattie said there were 2,000 urban post offices which were unprofitable. Before the Commons debate, Conservative MPs protested that the closure of the Houses of Commons' own post office as part of a London-wide protest by Post Office workers, had interfered with the work of MPs.

Mr Brittan, in a written answer to a parliamentary question from Mr Robert Hayward (C. Kingswood) gave no date for the forecast experiments but said he would make a further statement "before too long."

Mr Brittan said that community radio would be something different from the local radio provided by the BBC and independent local radio.

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### ETHIOPIA

Cholera appeal

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### BROADCASTING

Community radio

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### MP rebuffed

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, yesterday dismissed a Labour MP's suggestion to cut costs by sending overseas Foreign Office officials' children to state instead of public schools.

The idea, put forward at question time by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington), was suggested for "narrow class reasons," said Sir Geoffrey.

### Howe attacks MEP inquiry on police

"We will not cooperate with inquiries on subjects outside the European Parliament's responsibilities," he told MPs at Commons Question time.

Sir Geoffrey said it was "deplorable" for Labour's Euro-MPs to allow this to be dragged onto the floor at Strasbourg — with very scant respect for the authority of the Commons.

### PIT STRIKE

Britain will refuse to cooperate with the European Parliament's controversial inquiry into the policing of the pits dispute, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, confirmed yesterday.

The inquiry, by a committee of the Strasbourg, was attacked by Mr Teddy Taylor (C. Southend E.). He urged Sir Geoffrey to "make it abundantly clear that the Government will provide no official cooperation to hands of so-called Euro-MPs descending on this country to investigate matters of purely domestic interest like the conduct of the police in the miners' strike."

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# Miss Budd finds her feet—and her voice

tion Sebastian Cole will lead in the Haringey challenge for the GRB European Clubs' trophy in London this summer. Top internationalists from 16 different countries will be taking part in the two-day match at New River sports centre, Haringey on June 8 and 9.



**LONDON SENIOR CUP**—First Round:  
 Tottenham v. Barking  
**FA TROPHY**—First Round: Welling Utd v.  
 Watford Utd., Woking v. Dulwich H.  
**Hockey**  
**REPRESENTATIVE**—B. Navy v. British  
 Empire (Portsmouth, 2.15)  
**INDOOR HURTS** League (Hitchin, Coll.  
 8P.)  
**Basketball**  
**NATIONAL TROPHY**—Quarter-Final:  
 Arsenal Darts Club v. Cambridge (8.30)



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...W JONES, a promis-  
-old schoolboy in-  
l outside-half, has  
to leave Llanelli and  
legend, since he felt  
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for him.

**UGBY LEAGUE:** Southend Invicta may be forced to fold following the resignation yesterday of three directors — chairman Len Pearce, David Adam and Matt Wheatcroft. The surviving board members met when the club played at Maidstone as Kent Invicta last season.

but they may sponsor events and stage a Player of the Year. The officers are Bridgend-based, and a constitution has been endorsed, a dinner arranged and a tie struck.

**STEFFAN JONES**, a 17-year-old schoolboy from Llanelli, has decided to leave Llanelli to join Bridgend, since that club plays on the same Saturdays on the same pitch as his own were not for him.

ensure sponsorship for club.

Mr George sees the association as an advisory service but they may sponsor certain events - and stage a Welsh Player of the Year trophy. The officers are mainly Bridgend-based, and already a constitution has been endorsed, a dinner arranged and a tie struck.

**STEFFAN JONES**, a promising 17-year-old schoolboy, international outside-half, has decided to leave Llanelli and join Bridgend, since he felt that Saturdays on the bench were not for him.

**Basketball.**  
**NATIONAL TROPHY.** — Quarter-final















